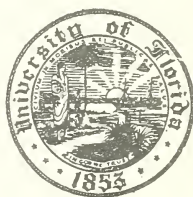


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JOURNAL

OF THE

CO. KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

AND

SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

THE COUNCIL of the COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY do not hold themselves answerable for statements put forward in this JOURNAL ; the responsibility rests entirely with the writers of the papers.





GERALD, FIFTH DUKE OF LEINSTER.

Born August 16, 1851; Died December 1, 1893.

First President of the County Kildare Archæological Society.



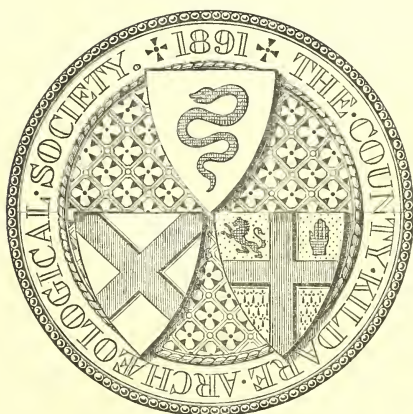
# JOURNAL

OF THE

CO. KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

AND

SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.



VOL. I.

—  
1891—1895.

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EDWARD PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON-STREET.

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# JOURNAL

OF THE

## County Kildare Archæological Society.

### Proceedings.

#### INAUGURAL MEETING.

A MEETING was held at Palmerstown, on Saturday, April 25th, in response to the following Circular :—

“It is proposed to establish an Archæological Society of the County Kildare, on the same lines as other County Archæological Societies in England and Ireland.

“We, the undersigned, who are anxious to promote this scheme, invite you to join in helping us to form this Society.

“We propose meeting at Palmerstown, on Saturday, April 25th, at 3 o'clock, for the purpose of framing Rules, &c., and request your kind co-operation and attendance.

LEINSTER.

MAYO.

WALTER FITZ GERALD.

✠ M. COMERFORD,  
*Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare and  
Leighlin.*

GEORGE YOUNG COWELL,  
*Dean of Kildare.*

MAURICE DE BURGH,  
*Archdeacon of Kildare.*

W. SHERLOCK,  
*Canon of Kildare Cathedral.*

GEORGE MANSFIELD.

EDMUND SWEETMAN.

T. COOKE-TRENCH.”

Amongst those present, who also became Members, were :—

The Duke of Leinster (*Life Member*) ; Most Rev. Dr. Comerford ; the Earl of Mayo ; Lord Walter Fitz Gerald (*Life Member*) ; Hon. Gerald Ponsonby ; Lady Maria Ponsonby ; The Dean of Kildare ; The Archdeacon of Kildare ; Canon

Sherlock ; Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j. ; Rev. J. F. Cole ; Rev. James Adams ; Rev. George Garrett ; Rev. E. Maguire, Professor, Maynooth College ; Rev. T. Gilmartin, Professor, Maynooth College ; T. de Burgh ; E. Sweetman ; T. Cooke-Trench ; George Mansfield ; H. Hendrick Aylmer ; Algernon Aylmer ; Rev. W. Stokes ; General Mac Mahon ; Rev. John Conmee, Rector, Clongowes Wood College ; Arthur Owen ; Arthur Vicars ; D. P. Coady, M.D. ; J. Lock, C.I.R.I.C. ; K. Supple, D.I.R.I.C. ; the Countess of Mayo ; Lady Eva Wyndham Quin.

Rules were framed and adopted, and the following officers and Council were elected :—

*President* : . . . HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

*Vice-President* : . . { THE MOST REV. M. COMERFORD, D.D., *Coadjutor*  
*Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.*

*Council* : . . . { LORD WALTER FITZ GERALD, M.R.I.A.  
 THE VEN. MAURICE DE BURGH, *Archdeacon of Kildare.*  
 THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A.  
 THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.  
 THOMAS COOKE-TRENCH, Esq., D.L.  
 GEORGE MANSFIELD, Esq.

*Hon. Treasurer* : . HANS HENDRICK AYLMER, Esq., *Kerdiffstown, Naas.*

*Hon. Secretaries* : . { THE EARL OF MAYO, *Palmerstown, Straffin.*  
 ARTHUR VICARS, Esq., F.S.A., *Clyde-road, Dublin.*

---

## RULES.

I. That this Society be called “The County Kildare Archæological Society.”

II. That the purpose of the Society be the promotion of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

III. That the Society consist of a President, Vice-President, Council, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and Members. Ladies are eligible for Membership.

IV. That the affairs of the Society be managed by the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries, together with a Council of six members. That for ordinary business two shall form a quorum ; but any matter upon which a difference of opinion arises shall be reserved for another meeting, in which three shall form a quorum.

V. That two Members of the Council shall retire by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

VI. That Members pay an Annual Subscription of Ten Shillings (due on the 1st of January), and that the payment of £5 shall constitute a Life Member.

VII. That the Society shall meet three times in the year—twice for the purpose of reading Papers, and once for an excursion to some place of archæological interest in the district.

VIII. That at the first Meeting of the Society in each year the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a balance-sheet.

IX. That a Journal of the Society be published annually, containing the Proceedings and a column for local Notes and Queries, which shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

X. That the Meetings of the year be fixed by the Council, due notice of the dates of the Meetings being given to Members.

XI. That Members be at liberty to introduce visitors at the Meetings of the Society.

---

The following Resolution was proposed by THE ARCH-DEACON OF KILDARE, seconded by MR. GEORGE MANSFIELD, and passed unanimously :—

“That a brief account of the proceedings of this Meeting be printed and circulated throughout the county and its neighbourhood; and that all persons who may forward their names to the Hon. Treasurer, with their Subscriptions for the current year, shall be admitted as Original Members.”

---

## LIST OF MEMBERS.

The asterisk (\*) denotes Life Members.

### MEMBERS WHO JOINED PREVIOUS TO JANUARY, 1892.

Rev. James Adams.  
Miss Aylmer.  
Algernon Aylmer.  
H. Hendrick Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer.*  
\*Major Barton, D.L.  
Colonel Bonham.  
Rev. Canon Brady.  
J. T. Brooke.  
Very Rev. Robert Browne, *President,*  
*Maynooth College.*  
\*Colonel Clements.  
\*Henry J. B. Clements.

Mrs. Clements.  
D. P. Coady, M.D.  
Robert Cochrane, M.R.I.A.  
Right Hon. W. F. Cogan, D.L.  
Rev. J. F. Cole.  
Most Rev. M. Comerford, M.R.I.A.,  
*Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare, Vice-*  
*President.*  
Rev. J. Conmee.  
Stanley Coote.  
Very Rev. G. Y. Cowell, *Dean of Kildare.*  
Colonel Hon. C. Crichton, D.L.

LIST OF MEMBERS—*continued.*

J. Whiteside Dane.	William Molloy.
Colonel Gerald Dease.	Rev. Thomas Morrin.
Ven. Maurice de Burgh, <i>Archdeacon of Kildare.</i>	Rev. Denis Murphy, M.R.I.A.
Thomas J. de Burgh, D.L.	Rev. Michael Murphy.
Rev. Matthew Devitt.	Very Rev. E. O'Leary.
F. J. Falkiner, M.D.	Rev. Patrick O'Leary.
*Lord Walter Fitz Gerald, M.R.I.A.	Arthur Owen.
Rev. W. Fitz Gerald.	Hon. Gerald Ponsonby.
Rev. M. Fogarty.	Lady Maria Ponsonby.
Rev. George Garrett.	Rev. William Ramsbott.
Rev. T. Gilmartin.	Rev. Canon Sherlock.
Edward Glover.	Rev. Richard D. Skuse.
Thomas Greene, LL.D.	Rev. W. Stokes.
Thomas James Hannon.	K. Supple, D.I.R.I.C.
Lady Higginson.	Joseph R. Sutcliffe.
Michael F. Hogan.	Edmund Sweetman.
Rev. George Kelly.	Mark Taylor.
Rev. W. Somerville Large.	F. Evelyn Thornhill.
*The Duke of Leinster, <i>President.</i>	Thomas Cooke-Trench, D.L.
J. Lock, C.I.R.I.C.	Arthur Vicars, F.S.A., <i>Hon. Secretary.</i>
General Mac Mahon.	Colonel P. D. Vigors, M.R.I.A.
Mrs. Mac Mahon.	General Weldon.
Rev. E. Maguire.	Mrs. Weldon.
P. A. Maguire.	W. I. Wheeler, M.D.
David Mahony, D.L.	W. Grove White.
George Gun Mahony.	G. de L. Willis.
George Mansfield	George Wolfe.
The Earl of Mayo, <i>Hon. Secretary.</i>	Robert Lloyd Woolcombe, M.A., LL.D.
E. Molloy.	(Dubl.); LL.D. (Royal Univ.); F.S.S.; M.R.I.A.

## MEMBERS WHO JOINED IN JANUARY, 1892.

Rev. James Carroll.	Colonel R. P. Saunders, D.L.
Rev. E. Lewis-Crosby.	Lord Seaton.
Thomas Drew, R.H.A., M.R.I.A.	

*Honorary Member*—Miss Margaret Stokes.

## EXCURSION MEETING, 1891.

THE first Annual Excursion Meeting took place on Thursday, 3rd September, and was well attended.

The town of Naas was rendered lively in the morning by the constant stream of vehicles passing through on their way to Killashee, where members assembled at 11.30 A.M. Amongst those present were :—

The Earl of Mayo, *Hon. Secretary*; Bishop Comerford, *Vice-President*; Lord Walter Fitz Gerald, The Archdeacon of Kildare and the Misses de Burgh, The Dean of Kildare and Mrs. Cowell, The Misses Beauman, Col. Clements, Mr. Henry J. B. Clements, Mr. T. M. Deane, Mrs. T. J. de Burgh, Mr. and Mrs. Owen, Rev. R. D. Skuse and Mrs. Skuse, Rev. Canon and the Misses Sherlock, Mr. H. Hendrick Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Hon. Secretary*; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Brooke, Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Coote, Mr. Mark A. Taylor, Mr. J. Lock, c.i.; Mrs. Lock, Rev. W. Somerville Large, Mr. Edward Glover, Rev. H. Parke Brown, Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j.; Mr. and Mrs. Cooke-Trench, Mr. T. J. Harrison, Mr. George Mansfield, Mr. P. A. Maguire, Rev. George C. Kelly, s.j.; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sutcliffe, Mr. and Mrs. Algernon Aylmer, Mr. Thomas Greene, Rev. Michael Fogarty, Rev. E. O'Leary, Rev. J. S. Conmee, s.j.; Rev. M. Devitt, Rector Clongowes Wood College; Rev. T. Morrin, Mr. Grove White, c.s.; Rev. H. Cullen, Mr. G. P. Bermingham, Mr. James Farrell, Mr. W. Staples, Mr. M. Gogarty, Rev. W. Fitz Gerald, and many others.

The first move was to the subterranean passages in the grounds of Killashee, which had been kindly lighted up for the occasion by Major Moore. Here the first symptoms of inclement weather showed themselves in a smart shower; but those present sought refuge under ground, and with this single exception the weather was remarkably fine throughout the day.

The Rev. Denis Murphy gave a short description of the curious subterranean passages, of the origin of which he said very little was known. The party went down into the caves, which must be of great extent, as they sufficed to contain most of those present. They are cut out of a sandy soil, and are in some places so low that one has to crawl on one's hands and knees. Everything was done by the proprietor to make the inspection of them convenient, the whole place being lighted up with candles, placed at intervals, and guides provided to pilot the archæologists through the winding passages. Then the members proceeded to the church, where the Rev. Mr. Murphy read a paper, which is given in this JOURNAL.

Vehicles were ready to convey the party to Naas, where at 1.30 p.m. they were received by Archdeacon de Burgh at St. David's, who read a paper on the chief features of the church (also printed in the JOURNAL), and conducted the party over his interesting old Rectory, dating from the time of King John, with its groined roof in the diningroom and quaint well staircase.

Luncheon was then partaken of in the Town Hall, the arrangements for which had been admirably made by Mr. H. Hendrick Aylmer. Luncheon over, a short visit was paid to the North Moat, contiguous to the town, and then, at 4 p.m., the members drove to Jigginstown Castle, the residence of the celebrated Earl of Strafford, which Mr. Arthur Vicars described; after which a vote of thanks to Rev. D. Murphy, Archdeacon de Burgh, and Mr. Arthur Vicars for their papers was proposed by Mr. Cooke-Trench, seconded by Lord Mayo, and the day's proceedings came to a close.

The railway company issued return tickets to members at single fares, and altogether the arrangements for the convenience of those attending the meeting worked without a hitch, and the hours on the programme were kept to with commendable punctuality.

*H. HENDRICK AYLMER in Account with the COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY to 31st December, 1891.*

Dr.	Cr.
To Subscriptions, viz.:—	By Expenses of Cleaning
5 Life Members, . . £25 0 0	Caves at Killashee,
74 Annual Members, . 37 0 0	3rd Sept., . . . . £0 10 0
	„ Hire of Naas Town Hall,
	3rd Sept., . . . . 0 10 0
	„ Stationery, Printing, and
	Postage, . . . . 5 2 6
	„ Bank Charges for Collec-
	tion of Cheques, Cheque
	Book, . . . . . 0 3 1
	„ Balance, 31st Dec., 1891, 55 14 5
£62 0 0	£62 0 0

*1st January, 1892.*

H. HENDRICK AYLMER.

*Hon. Treasurer.*

## Introduction.



THE COUNTY KILDARE is possessed of many objects of interest to the antiquary. There are Druidical remains, the origin of which is lost in the dimness of extreme antiquity. There are memorials which mark where the great Apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick, himself proclaimed the tidings of salvation, and of the “*cella quereûs*,” the monastery which St. Brigid founded, and from which she exercised her spiritual sway over the whole island as “*abbess of all abbesses*.” Besides these and other relics of the ancient Celtic Church of Ireland there are memorials of the kings of Leinster who were crowned on the Moate of Naas, of Strongbow and his men who came after them. There are remains of the castles which the Norman warriors built and of the religious houses which they established—relics which move the lover of the past to say with the poet:—

“Their bones are dust, their good swords rust;  
Their souls are with the saints, we trust.”

Coming to later days, we may note how the ruins of Jigginstown recall the masterful rule of Strafford and the

grounds about the Abbey at Celbridge have their associations connected with the great Dean Swift.

To collect and to preserve the records and traditions of these memorials of the past, and to present them to all who love archæology, in a Journal which it is hoped may yet prove a rich storehouse, whence some learned historian may draw his materials for that great *desideratum*—a complete history of the County Kildare—such is the object—the ambition of the County Kildare Archæological Society.

M. T. DE B.



## ST. DAVID'S CHURCH, NAAS.

BY THE VEN. ARCHDEACON DE BURGH.

I SHALL commence my observations by drawing your attention to the site of the church. There can be little doubt that it is erected on the spot where the great Apostle of Ireland, St. Patrick himself, proclaimed the tidings of salvation. It is a matter of history that, in the course of his apostolic journeyings, St. Patrick paid more than one visit to Naas. The "Tripartite Life" tells that, passing from Meath, he went to Naas. And further (to quote the words of the "Tripartite Life"), the site of his pupal (or tent) is the green of the *fort* to the east of the *road*; and his well is in the north of the fort, where he baptised Dubhlang's two sons, Oillil and Illaun, and Oillil's two daughters. All these places may still be traced. The *fort* (or *dun*) is the *North Moat*. The *road* is the present Main-street of Naas. The Green (or *faitche*) of Naas lies south-east of the *dun*, extending to the South Moat. The name still survives; a portion of the old Green is still called the "The Fair-green." Now, the site of St. David's Church exactly corresponds with that assigned to the pupal or tent of St. Patrick. It is in what was the Green of the Fort, and it is to the east of the *road*, i.e. the present Main-street of Naas.

There are strong reasons for believing that a church was erected on this site in very early times, dedicated to St. Patrick; and in the judgment of Mr. Drew, the ancient baptismal font (of which I shall say more presently) is a relic of the Dominica of Naas, which existed before the present edifice.

But of the origin of the present church there can be very little question. The barony of Naas was granted to William Fitzgerald by Henry II. in 1176. This Anglo-Norman possession was followed by the settlement of a colony from Wales; and these colonists built the church, and dedicated it to the great saint of Pembrokeshire, whence they came—St. David. I believe that about Wexford there are certain ruined churches

built by Welshmen at the same time, and dedicated to St. David, but I do not believe that any one of these is still used as a parish church; and I think I may claim for this church that it is the only church in Ireland dedicated to St. David in which Divine Service has been held from the date of its consecration.

Mr. Drew is strongly of opinion that the builders of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, and of St. David's, Naas, were one and the same. He states that Mr. George Edmund Street, the architect who planned the restoration of Christ Church, has established the connexion with and similarity between Christ Church Cathedral and the Cathedral of St. David in Wales; and he says that here at Naas are found capitals—not of a common type—characteristic enough to support a theory that they are precisely of the time, and the production of the same builders who erected, in 1190, the beautiful nave of Christ Church for Archbishop Comyn.

The present church is but a portion, though doubtless the larger portion—in fact the nave—of the original edifice. Mr. Drew states that in the Inquisition of James I., in 1606, we find that in the Church of St. David of Naas there were three chantries, viz. the Holy Trinity, St. Mary, and St. Catherine. There is no doubt about the position of the chantry dedicated to St. Mary. We can clearly trace the foundations of St. Mary's "aisle," as it was called within the memory of old inhabitants of Naas, along the south side of the present edifice, and nineteen feet distant from the present wall. It was separated from the present church by a row of heavy arches, which are now built up, and in each of which a window of the plainest and most hideous design has been inserted. The outline of these arches can be clearly traced, and a solitary corbel projecting from the south wall marks the position, and gives a clue to the roof.

In fact, a large portion of this aisle formed an integral part of the church when my predecessor, the Rev. Walter de Burgh, first came here in 1830. In an evil hour he, with the best intentions, invoked the aid of the late Ecclesiastical Commissioners to improve the church, which they did, with a vengeance, sweeping away the remains of St. Mary's aisle, wherein the prayer desk and pulpit were situated, and erecting an enormous structure of a lofty pulpit and expansive reading pew right in front of the chancel arch.

The church, as existing, has some peculiarities. It is one foot wider at the east end than at the west end, and the east wall is remarkably out of square, the south wall being about

two feet longer than the north one. The chancel has, in consequence, the appearance of inclining to the north side. This is, however, no unusual occurrence in old churches of the time. I well remember when more than thirty years ago we commenced to restore the east end of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, we found a similar irregularity.

Mr. Drew thinks that there are good grounds for conjecture that in old times the church was disposed of as follows:—The present nave may have contained the chantry of St. Katharine; the south aisle the chantry of St. Mary; where the present chancel stands, the chantry of the Holy Trinity. He notes that in some alterations made some years ago, the present vicar and he traced the remnants of some cut-stone arch dressings, very decayed and honeycombed, indicating a chancel arch or opening of some kind.

On the other hand, I would draw your attention to the distinct traces of an old arch in the north wall, about half way down.

I would especially direct your attention to the two ancient window openings on the north side of the church. You may observe in each the moulded arches enriched with "nail-head" ornament. One window has been restored under the careful superintendence of Mr. Drew as a memorial to the late Earl of Mayo. "Fragments though these be," to quote the words of Mr. Drew, "the old dressings of the jambs fix a period and point a history. Their probable date, within twenty or thirty years, would be at once pronounced by a skilful observer. There is a characteristic peculiarity in the mouldings of the capitals which connects them with the builders of the choir of Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin."

The east window has been designed in strict accordance with these ancient relics by Mr. Drew. It is a memorial to the late Rev. Walter de Burgh, for twenty-nine years vicar of the parish.

We must not leave the interior of the church without giving our attention to the ancient font, the basin or upper portion of which, Mr. Drew considers, held its place in an older edifice than the present church. He ascribes it to the eleventh century. When my uncle first came here he found it lying out in the churchyard. He brought it into the church, where for many years it rested on props of turned wood. It has been judiciously restored, under the auspices of Mr. Drew, by T. J. de Burgh, Esq., of Oldtown.

The ivy-clad tower, which looks so venerable, is in truth a modern addition, very little more than one hundred years old,

as appears from an inscription on a marble tablet over the entrance into the church—

“Ruinam inveni pyramidem reliqui.  
Mayo, MDLXXXI.”

I need not remind so learned an assembly as the present that this is an ambitious adaptation of Augustus' saying respecting the city of Rome—

“Lateritiam inveni, marmoream reliqui.”

I suppose that the design was to crown the present tower when completed with a steeple, and “pyramidem” represents the best Latin equivalent that could be found to “steeple.” Alas! that a more truthful inscription now would be—

“Ruinam inveni et ruinam reliqui.”

It is rather a curious coincidence that in the south transept of Chester Cathedral there is a large, black marble font, and on a slab on the wall close by there is the inscription—

“Lateritium hic olim invenit Baptisterium Infans Gulielmus Moreton Marmoreum IDEM instituit EPISCOPUS KILDARENSIS. Anno Dom., 1687.”

There is a fine old bell in the tower which bears the inscription—

“R.P.W.C., 1674. Os meum laudabit Dominum in ecclesia S. Davidis de Naas.”

The registers of the church go back as far as “July the 10th, 1674.” Under the date Feb. 27th, 1690, the following curious entry occurs:—

“Two strangers buried, which were taken out of John Lawler's house by the Rapparees, and cuppled together like dogs, and drowned in the Mill-pond at Sigenstowne; the said strangers were Englishmen.”

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[We hope in some future number of the JOURNAL to give a plan of St. David's Church, which unfortunately is not ready for insertion in this number.—ED.]

## KILLASHEE CHURCH.

BY REV. DENIS MURPHY, S. J., M. R. I. A.

THE church in which we are assembled is at present called Killashee, but its predecessors that occupied the same site in ancient times bore names somewhat different from the present one—Killossy, Killussy, Ceallusal, Killuassuille, Killaus-sille, all, like Killashee, derived from the Latin name slightly distorted, *Cella Auxilii*, the cell or dwelling of *Auxilius*.

Of course you will wish to know who this *Auxilius* was who has given his name to this church. Turn to the great work of the Franciscan Friar John Colgan, bearing the name of “*Triadis Thaumaturgæ Acta*”—the Acts of the Wonder-working Three, *i. e.* Patrick, Columba, and Bridget, the three patrons of Ireland, which was published at Louvain, in 1647, a very rare book now, but a fine copy of which can be seen in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin. In the first 315 pages of that book the author has printed seven Lives of St. Patrick, the first and oldest, in Irish verse, being that of St. Fiac, of Sletty, near Carlow, styled in that Life *adolescens poeta*, a young poet, whom St. Patrick consecrated bishop. The last of these Lives is most probably the work of St. Evin, the founder of the Monastery of Rossglas of the Munstermen, now known as Monasterevan, who wrote about the middle of the sixth century. This is called the “*Tripartite Life*,” and has been lately translated by Mr. Whitley Stokes from an ancient Irish version. Or if we wish to save ourselves the trouble of going in search of various passages bearing on our subject, of picking them out, and piecing them together, we shall get all that we want summarised in Ussher’s “*Ecclesiarum Britannicarum Antiquitates*,” chaps. xvi. and xvii. of the original edition of 1639, or in vol. vi., p. 368, of the collected edition of his works published in 1847. In the 17th chapter of this work we shall find St. Patrick’s descent and that of the several members of his family treated of in considerable detail. He tells us that St. Patrick had five sisters, one certainly, probably two, of whom had been brought captives to

Ireland when Patrick was brought here, and sold as slaves. One of the sisters, perhaps one of the two who had been slaves in Ireland, Liemania by name, after regaining her liberty, had for first husband a certain Corris; their children were Mel, later Bishop of Ardagh; Brioch, Abbot of Inisboffin in Lough Ree, *speciosus præ filiis hominum in illa* (Tyreconnellia) *degentium*, and Nuna. She had for second husband *Restitutus, ex genere Longobardorum*, says the "Tripartite Life," of the race of the Longobardi or Lombards. The children of this marriage were Seachnall (or Secundinus), from whom Dunshaughlin in Meath has its name, Nechtain, Dabonna, Magorna, Darioe, Auxilius, and Lugnath. So, too, the Book of Leinster: "Lupart, Patrick's sister, the sons of Hua Baird, Sechnall, Nechtain, Dabonna, Magornan, Darioe, Ausaille, Presbyter."

The "Tripartite Life" gives this account of the coming of Auxilius to Ireland: I quote from Mr. Whitley Stokes' version lately published in the Master of the Roll's Series:—"The High Priest (Pontifex, archindech), who was in Rome at that time, was Celestinus, the forty-second man from Peter. He sent Palladius, with twelvemen, to preach to the Gael. When Palladius came to the territory of Leinster, namely to Inver Dea, Nathi, son of Garrechu, opposed him and expelled him. As then he was returning, sickness seized him in the land of the Picts, so that he died thereof. When Patrick heard that, knowing that unto him God had granted the Apostleship of Ireland, he went thereafter to Rome to have (ecclesiastical) orders given him; and Celestinus, Abbot of Rome—he it is that read orders over him—Germanus, and Amatho, King of the Romans, being present with them. On the same day Auxilius was ordained, and Isserminus, and others of Patrick's household. Then, too, the name Patricius was given unto him, a name of power, as the Romans think, to wit, one who looseth hostages." The "Vita Secunda," the author of which is said to be a disciple of St. Patrick, gives the following account of their coming:—"When the news of Palladius' death reached Britain most (probably Brittany)—for his disciples Augustine and Benedict and the others brought word to Eboria, of his death—Patrick and his companions turned out of their way to a certain wonderful man, a chief bishop named Amathorex, living near, and receiving from him episcopal orders, he learned all that was about to happen him. Auxilius, too, Serenus, *i. e.* Isserminus, and others of inferior rank, were ordained on the same day as Patrick. Then receiving permission and a blessing, and everything being ready, and the versicle of the Psalmist having been sung to suit Patrick specially, 'Thou art a priest for ever,' the venerable pastor embarked in the

name of the Holy Trinity on a ship that was ready, and reached Britain, and soon after, with all speed, and aided by a favourable wind, he came to Ireland."

Colgan is of opinion that Patrick alone received episcopal orders then, the others only priests' orders, or it may be only what are called minor orders, for in a passage, which I shall quote later from the "Book of Armagh," Auxilius is called an Exorcist. From the "Annals of Inisfallen" the inference has been drawn that Secundinus, Auxilius, and Isserninus did not come to Ireland with Patrick, but were sent later to aid him: "Mittuntur in auxilium Patricii." These words occur under the date 439, and we know that the date usually assigned for St. Patrick's first coming to Ireland is that given by St. Prosper in his Chronicle, 431.

After describing St. Patrick's journey through Hy Garchon (the district near the present town of Wicklow), and the success of his preaching in North Leinster—for the sons of Dunlaing who held rule there, and lived at Naas, accepted his teaching and were baptised in a fountain near the north side of the town—the author of the "Tripartite Life" continues: "Going on from that he came to a beauteous plain, the boundary of which the river Liffey flows by, and for this reason it is called Magh Lífé, *i.e.* the plain of the Liffey. In that district he laid the foundations of several churches, and marked out their termons. These churches he set his disciples over to complete and govern. He left St. Auxilius in the church commonly called Killuassuille, having got that name from him; he left SS. Isserninus and Macatalius in Kilcullen, and other holy men in others." And the "Book of Armagh": "He went into the plain of the Liffey and ordained Auxilius who, when a boy, had been the exorcist of Patrick, and Isserninus and Mactaleus in the little cell of Cuillinn, *i.e.* Kileullen. Ussher thinks Auxilius was consecrated bishop in 448. In the list of those bishops consecrated by St. Patrick, given in the "Book of Armagh," *De Episcoporum numero quos ordinavit in Hibernia ccccl.*, the names of Auxilius and Secundinus are given. From this and other passages already quoted, the conclusion has been drawn, and fairly as it seems, that Auxilius was ordained by St. Patrick himself. A difficulty arises, however, from the passage in the "Annals of Inisfallen," under the date 439, "Secundinus, Auxilius, et Isserninus Episcopi mittuntur in auxilium Patricii:" from which it is inferred that they were bishops when they were sent to help him. "The most satisfactory mode," says Dr. Lanigan, "that I can discover for reconciling these authorities is, that St. Patrick finding himself in want of episcopal helpers,

had sent Isserninus and Secundinus to Great Britain or Gaul, that they might be consecrated bishops according to the established usage of the Church, which required the presence of at least three bishops for the consecration of another. It is true, indeed, that Auxilius and Isserninus seem to be spoken of as having been made bishops some years later by St. Patrick himself; but this can be very well understood, not of their episcopal consecration, but of their having been employed in various parts of the country affixed to particular sees. The arrival of these three as bishops and auxiliaries to St. Patrick about 439 was a circumstance worth recording, but it does not contradict their having been already in Ireland." Whether Lanigan's explanation will satisfy those who are curious about this matter, I am not quite sure.

In Spelman's "Concilia," published in 1619, we find the decrees of a synod held by St. Patrick which bears the title: *Synodus Episcoporum, i.e. Patricii, Auxilii, et Issernini*. From this title some have inferred that Auxilius must have had some special eminence or authority among the bishops, for the laws made there were for the whole Irish Church, and other bishops, as Ailbe of Emly, Kieran of Saiger, and Declan of Ardmore, would have been present as a matter of course. There is a passage in the "Chronicon Scotorum" that seems to refer to the dignity of Auxilius and his two companions; it is under the date 438, and runs thus: "Secundinus, Auxilius, and Isserninus are sent to the Irish, but they obtained not pre-eminence or authority (*ἀριετιαν καὶ ὑποδιουσιαν*) in the time of Patrick alone." The passage is certainly an obscure one. Time will not allow me to enter more fully on its meaning. Ware puts the date of this synod as "about ccccl." Ussher does not fix the date of it; he says it must have taken place after cccclviii., the year of St. Secundinus's death, for no mention is made in it of him, though the names of Auxilius and Isserninus are given. It could not have been later than 459, for the following year is the one usually set down as that after the death of St. Auxilius: for instance, in Ussher, vi. 385: "Auxilius after he had wrought many miracles ended his holy life in his city (*civitas*), which is called Cealusaille, in the plain of the Leinstermen." And again in his "Chronologia Sacra," under the date cccclx.: "Auxilius, bishop, nephew of St. Patrick, ended his days in the city of Ceallusailli, which has taken its name from him."

The Four Masters, on the authority of the "Annals of Clonmacnoise" and of "Inisfallen," give 458 as the date of his death. Others give it as 460. Colgan does no more than



give these different dates, without putting forward any opinion of his own. Nor are biographers agreed about the day of death. The "Martyrology of Tallaght" says his "*natale*" is on March 19th, and it mentions him again at July 30th. The Four Masters (on the authority of the "Annals of Clonmacnoise" and the "Martyrology of Donegal") give the 27th of August. Colgan gives his Life under the 19th of March.

Like all the notable sanctuaries of Ireland, Killashee suffered at the hands of the Danes.

We read in the "Wars of the Gaedhil with the Gaill," under the date 824: "Another fleet came to Hy Cennselaegh, and they plundered Taghmon, and Teach Moling. By them were demolished Castledermot and Desert Tiprait, and they devastated Lismore, and burnt Cillmolash and Clonard. They plundered, also, Sord Columkille, Duleck Cianan, Slane, Orllasaille, Glendaloch, Cloyne, Mungret, and the greater part of the churches of Erin." For Orllasaille, in the Brussels' manuscript of this work, other manuscripts have Cellusaille. So the "Book of Leinster," and Keating, too, in his "History." And in the "Annals of the Four Masters," under the date 1035, "Cill-uaille and Claonad (Clane) were plundered by the Danes, who were met by the son of Donough, son of Donnell, and defeated and slaughtered."

In the same "Annals" are given the names of two Abbots of Killashee—Maol Dobharchon, who died in 827, and Lomseach, son of Faoillen, who died in 870.

From the will of Cathaoir Mor, monarch of Ireland in the second century, it is clear that there were several families of the Ui Bairche seated at Cloncurry, Kilossy, and Cill. They must have migrated there from their original territory, Slieve Mairgie, in the Queen's County.

Coming somewhat nearer to our own time, we find a Commission dated 21st February, 1578, issued to certain persons, among them being Beling of Killossy. I find no mention of Killashee or its owner in the "Description of Ireland in 1598," a MS. in Clongowes College. Robert Graydon was living here in 1790. In the "Regal Visitation Book" of 1615 Killosoie is said to be an inappropriate rectory, the vicar of which was William Mann, who was a minister legens, its yearly value being £6. The chancel was then in good condition, and supplied with books. In Archdall's time—he published his "Monasticon" in 1778—it was a parish church.

An uncommon feature of the present church, a comparatively modern building, is its bell-tower, the lower part of which is square and the upper part round. The tower is much older

than the present church; it belonged to an earlier building, as may be seen by the drip-stones which mark the height and pitch of the former roof. But to determine the date of its erection with any sort of precision is not an easy task.

As might be expected, there is a holy well here. It is called St. Patrick's Well. Very probably the saint baptized with its waters some of the inhabitants of Magh Lifé, whom he had converted to the faith of Christ. The people of the country round often visit it to make "Stations." It is about three hundred yards to the east of the church.

A castle is said to have stood somewhere near; but there are no remains of it, nor is its site well known. It will have been, no doubt, one of the small castles which abound in Kildare, built by the first English settlers as a defence against their Irish neighbours, the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles.

## JIGGINSTOWN CASTLE.

BY ARTHUR VICARS, F.S.A.

**Y**ou are now assembled amidst the ruins of Jigginstown, or Sigginstown, Castle—a residence of the celebrated Earl of Strafford, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in Charles I.'s time. It is not my intention to-day to go at any depth into the history of this building, but merely to give you a few details concerning it, and shortly to describe its features.

There are few ruins in Ireland about which so little is known. It is said to have been built by a Rev. Mr. Johnson, Rector of Dromlease, in Kilmore Diocese, but Cromwell, in his "Excursions through Ireland," says by one of the Allen family, who was well-known for his taste in architecture, and who built Old St. Wolstan's, not many miles distant, itself an Allen residence at one time. This Allen was the founder of the Allen family (Viscount Allen), and in Almon's Peerage of Ireland, 1768, I find it mentioned that John Allen came from Holland, as a factor for the Dutch, at the close of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and, "being skilful in architecture, was esteemed and consulted by the most eminent of the nobility and gentry in their buildings, particularly by the Earl of Strafford, the Lord Lieutenant, in his intended edifice near Naas." It is probable that Allen planned the building and Johnson carried it out; for in the "Life of Bishop Bedell," by Rev. A. Clogy, London, 1862, p. 60, we find the following:—"I know not any person that was permitted to be non-resident, save one Mr. Johnson, a man of great reach, whom the Earl of Strafford, the Lord Lieutenant, made his engineer over his great and glorious buildings at the Naas, and at Carme, and Coshar (Coollatin), in the County Wicklow." The Regal Visitation, 1633, states the income of Dromlease at £24 per annum. It was in the gift of the Bishop of Kilmore.

Ireland is essentially a stone-building country, and we seldom come across brick ruins. You must all be struck with the exquisite masonry here before you, showing the brick walls

as perfect in some places as when they were first erected. The bricks used here are said to be old Dutch. But I am inclined to think that they were made by native workmen under the direction of Allen, who it is reasonable to suppose taught the natives here how to make bricks on the Dutch principle. There is a tradition that the bricks for this building were brought from Dublin by hand—*i.e.* a chain of men who passed the bricks down from Dublin, one to another. Now, wherever one dips in archæology in Ireland, one constantly meets with these absurd traditions. On the very face of it, this legend bears the stamp of impossibility, for—even supposing the roads at that time were too bad to permit of the transit of bricks by cart—if a chain of men such as I have described were utilized for this purpose, it would require at a rough calculation some 20,000 men. Now, Strafford's standing army was only 11,000, so he would have got little help by pressing it into his service. I venture to say that Strafford was by far too shrewd a man to adopt this method of carrying the bricks with which to build his castle.

The length of this main block (not counting the corner wing) measures inside 448 ft., and the extreme width 47 ft. 4 in. A wall ran down the centre of this block, which separated the apartments on either side. You will observe the fine fireplaces still remaining, which probably had stone chimneypieces, for portions of the stone still remain. These hearths were the prevalent ones in use in the seventeenth century, when wooden logs were used on iron dogs, generally with cast-iron fire-backs, having the arms of the owner, or in many cases the Royal Arms, impressed on them. All vestiges of these, however, have disappeared. The small moulded bricks lining the fireplaces are of foreign workmanship, and are doubtless Dutch. Beneath you will find a most magnificent range of vaulted cellars, with the plastering—and such plastering, too—still adhering to the walls. A well will also be found below, which probably was the water supply of the house.

Lord Mayo having obtained the kind permission of the owner, Lord Fitzwilliam—the present representative of the Wentworth family—to allow what we believed to be a hitherto unopened cellar lying between the main cellars and those at the far end, to be opened, we proceeded this morning to effect an entrance from the outside, fully expecting to find some relics of Strafford or a pot of money to reward us for our trouble. From early morning there have been masons and men at work endeavouring to effect an entrance to this cellar, but, up to this, Strafford's magnificent masonry has withstood all our efforts, and I fear we must only postpone the operation, but I do not think this par-

ticular part will be found to be vaulted. In our excavations, however, we have, I think, discovered where the main entrance to the building was, which was always a matter of question. The hall-door, doubtless, led out on to a raised balustraded platform, from which a broad flight of steps (the foundations of part of which we have laid bare) descended, gradually expanding in width till the ground was reached. My friend Mr. Deane has kindly drawn a rough sketch to give you an idea of the entrance.

I cannot call to mind amongst the old houses of the seventeenth century in England any building similar in style to this, with its huge windows; but, I am inclined to think that all these windows at one time had wooden mullions, which have long since disappeared, leaving only the recesses in the wall where they once existed.

Some people say that Jigginstown Castle was never finished, that it was in process of building when Strafford left Ireland in 1640 never to return, for, as we all know, he met his sad fate in 1641, when he was beheaded. I have been at some trouble to obtain information on this point. In Strafford's Letters, vol. ii., p. 105, there is a letter from the Lord Deputy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, from which I extract the following :—

Next, they say, I build up to the sky. I acknowledge that were myself only considered in what I build, it were not only to excess, but of even to folly, having already houses moderate for my condition in Yorkshire. But his Majesty will justify me that, at my last being in England, I acquainted him with a purpose I had to build him an house at the Naas, it being uncomely his Majesty should not have one here of his own, capable to lodge him with moderate conveniency (which in truth as yet he hath not) in case he might be pleased sometimes hereafter to look upon this kingdom, and that it was necessary in a manner for the dignity of this place, and the health of his deputy and family that there should be one removing house of fresh air, for want whereof, I assure your lordship, I have felt no small inconvenience since my coming hither; that when it was built, if liked by his Majesty, it should be his, paying me as it cost; if disliked, *a suo damno*, I was content to keep it and smart for my folly. His Majesty seemed to be pleased with all; whereupon I proceeded, and *have in a manner finished it*, and so contrived it for the Rooms of State and other accommodations which I have observed in his Majesty's houses, as I had been indeed stark mad ever to have cast it so for a private family. Another frame of wood I have given order to set up in a Park I have in the County of Wicklow [this refers to Cool-lattin]; and gnash the tooth of these gallants never so hard, I will by God's leave go on with it, that so I may have a place to take my recreation for a month or two in a year, were it for no other reason than to displease them, by keeping myself, if so please God, a little longer in health.

Yet, lest these magnificent structures might be thought those of Nebuchadnezzar, the plain truth is that at the Naas with the most may stand in £6000, that in the Park at £1200. Faith, at worst, methinks they should not judge it very much for a person of my great "Hazienda" to cast away £1200 upon his own fancy; and yet to profess a truth to your Grace, but

that I did consider his Majesty might judge it hereafter for his service to visit this kingdom, in that case foresaw no part able to give him the pleasure of his summer hunting like that park and country adjacent; and lastly, that I would provide a lodge that might house him dry from the injuries of the weather, I protest that there had not been one timber of it fastened together. In the meantime, my confidence is my comfort, that if I be made so happy as to see his Majesty on this side, he will give me thanks for them both, and then I am at the height of my ambition, and these my well-wishers fairly hounded upon the very place to accuse me, if anything they have to say unto me.—Dublin, this 27th of September, 1637.

In the *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* is printed some letters of Strafford which point to the fact that Jigginstown was in a fair way of being inhabited. They are dated from Naas, which I take it means that he writes from Jigginstown, which is not a mile from Naas; and in those days, probably, the park extended to the town. On his journey from Cork to Dublin, Strafford writes to his wife:—

FRIDAY MORNING.

Through foul weather & ways we draw nearer you & this day are for Cork, where I purpose if the weather serve to stay till Saturday come seven-night, then to the Naas, where having stayed a few days to order my business—then I am God willing for Dublin.—*Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*, Parts XXIII., XXIV., p. 383.

Then writing to his wife from “Naas,” on September 12, 1637, he says:—

Sweet Heart—I shall desire you not to come hither at this time, for being wrangling & busy with my workmen, I am extreme ill women’s company, but when the house is ready to receive, I shall in no place see you more gladly—my business here dispatched I will come with all speed to you.—*Yorkshire Archaeological Journal*.

On the same day he writes to Bramhall, Bishop of Derry:—

You are beholden to me for writing so many letters with my own hand, being here the busiest and pettish creature, you ever saw, or read of in all your books.—*Rawdon Papers*, p. 35.

A letter of introduction for Bramhall to present to the Lord Keeper, Coventry, is also written from the same house the previous day, September 11.

That Jigginstown remained in Strafford’s possession is evident from the following letter, written shortly before his execution, to his Secretary, Sir George Radcliffe:—

If the debts cannot otherwise be discharged, the lands in Kildare may be sold.—*Radcliffe Correspondence*, p. 226.

Boullage le Gonz, a French traveller, in his tour in Ireland in the year 1644, alludes to this Castle of Jigginstown, as then belonging to Sir George Wentworth. In speaking of Naas, he says:—

Where I saw the house of the late Lord Strafford, Viceroy of Ireland, beheaded in London. This Castle belongs to his brother, who resides in Dublin, and guards it by 40 English soldiers.

We also have the fact that Strafford dated many of his letters from this building, and alludes to it in them, and it figures in Gilbert's "History of the War of 1641," from which we may infer that it was at one time used. Rev. Denis Murphy informs me that many letters of the "Cessation" are dated from Jigginstown. Strafford's estimate that this building would cost him £6000 does not seem excessive when we recollect the relative value of money in those days and in the present.

Outside you will see the traces of the old Fish Pond, which most country houses possessed in olden times. It is probable that a range of terraces existed along the frontage of the house at this side, which is in accordance with the plan of such houses. I was informed that a subterranean passage existed here. Now stories about underground passages abound throughout the country, and must be received with caution. On my receiving the statement with some incredulity, my informant assured me that he had seen the entrance, and described the location with some minuteness. So, on the principle that tales about imaginary subterranean passages in no way weaken the evidence of real ones, I was determined to investigate it, and found a large vaulted aperture in the lower part of the wall in the laneway, but, after examination, it proved to be only two feet high, and merely an old watercourse from a mill which once existed on the site of the adjoining farm-house.

I heard some one express astonishment that Strafford should build his castle so near the road and canal! But I need hardly point out that the presence of a canal in those days would have astonished Strafford just as much as the person who made this remark.

There is a building in the adjacent field which is of an earlier date than the castle, and in the vaulted roof of the lower chamber distinct marks of the wattle-centering can be seen. I am aware there is a prevalent idea that the appearance of wattle-centering in buildings is a proof of considerable antiquity, but I know instances of this mode of forming the arch in buildings of the sixteenth and even seventeenth centuries.

From the square-headed windows and general style of this outlying tower, I think it cannot be earlier than the sixteenth century, and in this opinion I am supported by Mr. Deane.

Mr. Chaloner Smith, the celebrated authority on *mezzotinto* portraits, has kindly lent me two portraits of Strafford, which I have hung up in the building. Glancing at his portrait, we see something in the general appearance of the man that recalls to one's mind the solidity and fine workmanship of his castle, the remains of which are now before us.

One word about the name Jigginstown, or Sigginstown, as it should be. It is probably called after the family of De Sygan, which was converted at an early date into Siggin or Jiggin. They had two residences in the County Wexford, and lived at Syggan's Haggard and Sigginstown Castle till the middle of the seventeenth century.

In conclusion, I would thank Rev. W. Reynell, the well-known antiquary, Mr. A. F. Long, and other kind friends, for assistance in unearthing something about the past history of this building, concerning which so little has been known. I have been asked to read the peroration of Strafford's celebrated speech at his trial before the Lords, with which I will close my remarks.



*NOTES, ANTIQUARIAN AND HISTORICAL,  
ON THE PARISH OF CLANE.\**

By REV. CANON SHERLOCK.

**I**N offering you some notes on the parish of Clane, I must beg you to remember that Bishop Comerford has been in the field before me, and that I can only give you some gleanings after him.

The parish of Clane, as it now exists in the ecclesiastical division of the Church of Ireland, includes Clane proper, Clonshambo, Mainham, and Killibegs, which lie on the north-west of the river Liffey; and Bodenstown and Sherlockstown, on the south-east of that river. It stretches from beyond Prosperous to near Mount Armstrong, and from Sallins nearly to Turnings; and is thus divided by the Liffey into two somewhat unequal parts.

The present bridges of Clane and Millicent are at or near the site of two ancient fords. From the former of these Clane derived one of its names, Clane-Ath—the meadow of the ford. The other gave its name to Castle Size. The name of Castle Size as given in old maps is Casan Size, and the word Castle has been erroneously substituted for Casan, there never having been a castle at the spot. Casan in Irish means a path, and points to the existence of a ford or of a path down to the river, which, at no remote period, was marked by stepping-stones. Size, the second part of the name, has, I think, in course of time come to take the place of Soillse, which means “light.” Thus the original form of the name was, I believe, Casan-Soillse, the path of the light, either because there was a ford across the river, or that a path led down to it, where a light used to be shown to guide travellers on dark and stormy nights when the stream was in flood and dangerous. Many fords in different

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\* Read at the Society’s meeting on 27th January, 1892, at the Town Hall, Naas.

parts of the country now spanned by bridges still go by the name of Ath Solais or the Ford of the Light.

It is interesting to note that there still remains a considerable number of ancient Irish local names in the district; and in nearly every instance the propriety of these Celtic names may still be seen. Clane itself was so called from its wide meadows near the river. We have the same name again in *Clon-gowes* the meadow of the Smith—where Gow, “the Smith,” reminds us of Harry Gow—Harry the Smith in the “Fair Maid of Perth.” It occurs again in *Clon-shambo*, the meadow of the old cow, or the meadow of the hut. *Augnagarick*, the plot or field of the rock is the name of a field on Mr. Sweetman’s property at Longtown. In the same locality we have *Bella Villa*, or *Ballybilhe*, known to hunting men—the townland of the tree—recording some ancient tree which, on that spot, used in pagan days to be an object of veneration or worship. Near Clane we have *Loughanure*, the hollow of the yew tree. At the cross roads, a little on this side of Mount Armstrong, there is a place called *Boherhole*, that is *Boher-Coll*, the road of the hazel tree. *Boher*, a road, taking its meaning from *bo*, a cow. *Daars*, or *Derry*, near *Turnings Fox-cover*, shows that there was once an oak-wood there. Just beyond the back gate of *Castle Size*, where the ground slopes, there is a marshy piece of ground still called by the country people “*the moneen*,” or the little bog; and half way from Clane to *Firmont cross-roads*, there is a well called *Tobernamon*a—the well of the little bog. In Clane itself we have the *Butterstream* and *Butterstream Commons*, *Butter* being the same as *Bather* or *Bother*, and the whole meaning the “road stream”—as the *Butter mountain* near *Blessington* is so called from the *bother* or road that runs over it. Near *Digby’s Bridge*, on the *Grand Canal*, there is a very small townland called *Aghpaudeen*, pronounced by the country people *Apoggeen*, meaning *Paddy’s plot* or *Paddy’s ford*. About two miles out of Clane we have *Ballinagappagh*, the townland laid out for a tillage plot, and next it *Ballinabooley*, or the dairy townland. Then we have *Carrigeen*, *Capdoo*, *Killeenmore*, *Monteenalasnagh*, *Randoon*—all Irish names with meanings. As for *Sallins*, Mr. Joyce informs me that fifty years ago old people said that *Sallins* was “*Sailin*,” “*little sal*,” a heel or angle; but as there is no local peculiarity answering to this, it may, perhaps, be derived from *Saileach*, a place where *sallows* or *willows* grow; or even from *Sallagh*, a dirty or miry place; as there used to be a small stream that came out from the lower grounds of *Kerdiffstown*, and ran to the river, and mention is made in an

old document giving the boundaries of Naas, of "the Foard of Sallins."

There are few ancient remains in this district. Some forty or fifty years ago there existed what was called St. Brigid's chair and thimble, besides a stone said to bear the imprints of her feet, a little way above the head of the millrace at Clane, where there is now a disused quarry; but the stones were quarried a generation ago. I imagine from the description that it may have been an old cromlech. The well which sprung beside the chair, and was known as St. Brigid's well, still sends a tiny flow down to the river.

On the bank of the Butterstream, nearly opposite the ruins of the Abbey of Clane, there is a genuine relic of pre-Christian times. This is a large block of stone, with a cup cut in its upper side. It is what is called a bullàn or rock basin, of which there are many in Ireland, and it was doubtless used in pagan worship, an offering of milk or meal being deposited in the bowl. People in Clane call it a wart-stone, and say that you have never been in Clane unless you have sat upon it, which looks like a tradition of its having been used in some rite of initiation, perhaps for baptism in Christian times. Not far from this stone, and behind the mill at Clane, there is a large moat or tumulus covered with trees, and close to this is a Sunday well. For the legend in connexion with this tumulus and the stone basin, I must refer you to Dr. Comerford.

Coming now to Christian times, I suppose you all know that in the sixth century St. Ailba, Bishop of Ferns, founded an abbey here, and when leaving the place gave up his cell to St. Senchell the elder, whom he made its first abbot. It is supposed that the old parish church of Clane, now disused, marks the place where this Celtic monastery stood. The chief event in its history was the holding of a Synod in A. D. 1162. Shortly after this the district was divided among the followers of Strongbow, and the native chiefs were dispossessed and driven away. The natural result of this would be the ruin of the Celtic abbey of which we hear no more. If we try to picture the old monastery as it stood in the days of its prosperity, we may imagine a space almost identical with the present graveyard of the old church, surrounded by a cashel or wall of stones, or perhaps by a wooden stockade. Within this stood the original cell or hut of St. Ailba, and near this the church with the cells of the clergy and monks grouped round it. Clane was almost exempt from the raids of the Danes, who are only recorded to have plundered it once, on which occasion the natives rallied and pursued and inflicted signal slaughter upon them.

Probably, for this reason, no round tower nor any other stone building was erected here in those days. The church and monastery were no doubt constructed of wattles plastered over with clay, and with thatched roofs. We are not to imagine from this that they were necessarily inferior to buildings in other countries, though it was often called in the middle ages "opus Scoticum," the Irish style. In France such work was called "opus Gallicum," in contradistinction to stone-work which was Roman. The buildings at Glastonbury in Somersetshire, as they existed in the British Church, were, according to tradition, of wood. That the style admitted of no little cost and splendour is evident from the fact that when King Henry II. was in Dublin, in A. D. 1171, he caused a royal palace to be erected for him, with excellent workmanship, of smoothed wattles after the manner of Ireland. There is also a description given of St. Brigid's Church at Kildare, from which we learn that the church (built in the same fashion) "occupied a spacious area, and was raised to a menacing height, and adorned with painted pictures, having within three oratories, large, and separated by planks, under one roof of the greater house." One of these timber partitions, which was evidently a screen, ran across the east end of the church, and was decorated and painted with figures, and covered with linen hangings; these were probably dyed purple. Any one who has seen the exquisite works of Celtic art produced in those days, both in painting and in the metals, will easily conceive that timber churches, plastered, and adorned inside with all that love and reverence, and a wonderful sense of beauty, both of form and colour, could suggest, would scarcely find any rival even in the stone-built edifices of our own days.

Nevertheless, such buildings would fall an easy prey to the ravages of war; and neglect, inevitable in troublous times, would suffice to reduce them to ruin and decay, so that we need not wonder that they speedily disappeared. It is possible, indeed, that an ancient baptismal font, which was found some years since built in the wall of the old church tower at Clane, is really a relic of the old Celtic church. It has been removed, re-dressed, and handsomely mounted in the new Church of St. Michael and all Angels.

We have, however, an interesting memorial of the Celtic age in the lands which form the endowment of Hewetson's school, which go by the name of Betaghs-town.

The ancient Irish princes and chiefs founded numerous Biatachs, or houses of hospitality, and endowed them with lands, which were called Ballybetaghs. The keepers of these houses

were called Betachs, and were sometimes laymen, sometimes ecclesiastics. They were amply endowed with gifts of land, cattle, and sheep, for the public entertainment of travellers, strangers, sick, and poor. The official in charge of those houses required labourers to cultivate the grounds and tend the cattle, and these were, no doubt, slaves attached to the lands. Even in much later ages they seem to have passed with the lands whenever these changed hands, and they were called Betages. In this name Betaghstown, still attached to particular lands at Clane, we have an indication of one of these ancient charitable endowments given by some Celtic chief, and it is possible that the townlands of Ballinagappah and Ballinabooly, which immediately adjoin, may have been also chief's lands, the one appropriated to tillage, the other to the grazing of his dairy cattle.

Up to this I have said nothing about the village of Clane and its inhabitants. If any village existed in Celtic times it was probably wholly dependent on the abbey, especially as the abbots were generally either tribal chiefs or their relations. When, however, Strongbow's followers took possession, the new settlers would give the village a form similar to that which prevailed in England at that date. Clane, from its position on the border of the Pale, became a place of some importance, and like Naas, and hundreds of other little towns, had a sort of local government. In the fifteenth century there are at least two mentions of the portreeves and commons, or burgesses, of Clane. These little corporations had almost without exception power to hold property and receive gifts of land. Nor are we without traces of the municipal property once belonging to the village. The territory belonging to such communities consisted of three parts: 1, there was the township where the heads of the families owned each his own house and garden; 2, the arable and meadow land divided by lot among the freemen or burgesses at certain intervals, but, between harvest and seedtime, lying fallow and open to the cattle of all the community; 3, the common or waste land used for pasture and wood-cutting, which was never divided.

The history of these community properties has been the same in England and Ireland. They have long since passed into the hands of private owners. The last portion that remained corporate property were the commons, and these were in course of time appropriated by squatters, and encroached on by neighbouring land-owners, and finally enclosed by Act of Parliament.

There are two well-known marks of these ancient municipal

properties once held and cultivated in common. One is the existence of a large number of very small freeholds or a great subdivision of holdings near the town. The other is the existence of commons. We have both of these at Clane. If you look at the Ordnance map of Clane, you will notice the extraordinary sub-division of holdings there, and, in particular, the curious way in which the small fields run in long, narrow strips, which is a sure mark of the old way of distributing the lands by lot among the common owners.

Besides this, you will notice that there are no fewer than six commons in the immediate vicinity of the village. In the whole, these commons contain about 324 acres, while the townland proper of Clane contains 736 acres. All these lands have passed into private ownership. The portreeves and commons of Clane have long been extinct, and the last remnants of the common were enclosed within the memory of man.

This account of the community lands of Clane gives a clue to the origin of what is called the Economy Estate, a small property vested in the vicar and churchwardens. It consists of a number of small parcels of land, scattered here and there in the vicinity of the village, and these mostly present the peculiarity of which I have spoken—of being long strips of ground, so narrow that in some cases they are only marked off from the adjacent property by boundary stones. From their lying within the townland of Clane, we may conclude that they were at one time part of the arable and meadow land which used to be periodically divided among the burgesses for cultivation. The most probable account of their appropriation to the vicar and churchwardens is that when the arable and meadow land ceased to be held a community property, the vicar and churchwardens, who, as official parts of the community, had formerly received allotments for parochial purposes, obtained these lots in perpetuity, not for their individual use, but for parish expenses. This view is confirmed by the fact that in the parish books, at the beginning of this century, it was still the custom at the vestry to let these lands by public auction to the highest bidder, but *only to parishioners*.

Clane is not the only place in which there is an estate of the kind. There are similar Economy Estates at Lusk, Swords, Balrothery, and Finglas; and I am informed that when the late Bishop of Down, the lamented President of the Irish Academy, was Rector of Lusk, he endeavoured in vain to trace the history of these properties. From inquiries that I have made, it appears that the circumstances of these properties are so identical with those of the Clane Economy Estate, that we

can hardly avoid the conclusion that they all have a similar origin. In every case they are described as consisting of extremely small holdings scattered about in all directions; occasionally in mere strips of land; they are near towns or villages which possessed also commons, but very few of the holdings are on the common land. In the case of Swords, the last portreeve died in America within the past generation; and a holding of three acres, which was part of the perquisites of his office, has become derelict, and is in possession of the widow of his former bailiff. The Act 27 George III. speaks of the Economy Lands as let by Protestant parishioners in vestry assembled. I may add that the three acres of the portreeve of Swords are situated in a piece of land called Broadmeadows, which is common in certain months of the year: thus still preserving a curious relic of the ancient custom by which the arable and meadow land of the community, after the hay and corn harvest, were thrown open to be grazed by the cattle of all the burgesses.

These general characteristics of the various Economy Estates seem to me to make it probable that they all were originally the property of the village or town community, and part of the arable and meadow land; and that when these lands were turned into private property, the rector or vicar and churchwardens were given these Economy Lands in perpetuity for parochial purposes, which had hitherto been provided for in the periodical distribution. It will account for the land being scattered in so many small pieces if we suppose that in the old distributions there was an attempt made to deal out the land in tolerably equal proportions of bad and good—the burgess who obtained a fertile piece of land having to take part of his share in a lot of inferior quality. Or possibly at the final distribution, each burgess receiving a lot may have been obliged to make over a certain part of it to the vicar and churchwardens for parochial purposes. This origin of the Estates explains the position and stripe-like form of most of the holdings, and also accounts for the fact that the estate was totally distinct from the glebe, and was managed by the parishioners in vestry.

There is much beside which I should have liked to add if time permitted. I might have directed your attention to the remains of the ancient Anglo-Norman abbey, founded in the 13th century—to the remarkable fragment of the rampart of the Pale between Clongowes and Clane. I might have related the siege of Blackhall, the strange incidents of the life of Theobald Wolfe Tone, who, with other members of his family, lies buried in Bodenstown churchyard, and the story of the

beginning of the Rebellion of 1798 at Prosperous; but since time forbids, I shall only ask you to allow me to conclude these notes with the romantic adventure in which a gentleman belonging to an ancient family, connected with Clane in bygone days, played a remarkable part. The Wogan family was long settled at Rathcoffey, about two miles out of Clane, where they had a castle. Nor were they undistinguished. The adventure of which I am about to speak was undertaken by one of these, Sir Charles Wogan, a staunch adherent of the Stuarts. You may remember that the Old Pretender, as he was called, James Edward Francis Stuart, son of King James II., by his second wife, Mary of Modena, married the Princess Clementina Sobieski, granddaughter of John Sobieski, King of Poland. The marriage would never have taken place but for the part played by Sir Charles Wogan. In the first place he negotiated the alliance; when, however, it had been agreed upon, difficulties arose in consequence of the opposition offered by the Court of England. Hearing of this, her parents proposed that the Princess should be secretly conducted to Bologna, and there married. Accompanied by her mother, she hastily set out from Poland to cross the Alps, but by the orders of the Emperor Charles VI., they were arrested at Innsbruck in the Tyrol, and confined in a neighbouring convent. At this crisis, when both James and Clementina regarded their union as an impossibility, Sir Charles Wogan undertook to rescue the Princess and bring her safe to her expectant bridegroom. He obtained from the Austrian Ambassador a passport for one Count Cernes, who was supposed to be returning with his family from Loretto to the Low Countries. Two of Wogan's friends, a Major and Mrs. Misset, passed themselves off as the pretended Count and his wife. Wogan represented the Countess's brother, and Jenny, Mrs. Misset's maid, passed as the Count's sister.

On the evening of April 29, 1719, this party arrived at Innsbruck, and took lodgings near the convent. A servant belonging to the Princess was bribed to give his help, and it was settled that Jenny, the maid, should be introduced by him into the cloisters in the character of a young woman whom he was courting, and the Princess should take her place in coming out. "So far," says the story, "all had gone well; but here a piece of natural timidity on the part of Jenny, nearly defeated the plot." As soon as she learned that the person for whom she was to be left in pawn was a Princess, her courage failed; she imagined that when discovered all sorts of punishments would be inflicted for her audacity. At length, however, by promises and gifts, her fears were overcome, and she consented.



The night chosen for the escape was dark and stormy, and a wild, blinding snow-storm made all travelling dangerous. Notwithstanding this, it was decided to proceed. The maid was introduced into the cloister, exchanged clothing with the Princess, and took her place. A carriage was in waiting, and the Princess and her rescuers fled through the storm, traversed the Alpine passes, and crossing the Austrian frontier, found herself at last in safety, and was shortly afterwards married to James. From this marriage sprang Charles Edward, afterwards known as the Young Pretender, born in Rome towards the close of 1720.

Gallantly and loyally Charles Wogan did his part to the Prince whose evil fortunes he followed so unselfishly. One could wish that the romance in which he played so large a part had ended more happily. But when we read that only five years later the Princess was driven to take refuge in a convent rather than live with those who, to use her own expression, had "no religion, honour, nor conscience;" that neither the remonstrances of his friends, nor the authority of the Pope himself, prevailed to make the Prince, for whom she had adventured so much, treat her with affection, or even with respect; and finally how, after fifteen years of mental and physical suffering, she found in death a welcome release—we cannot help feeling that even Wogan himself must often have regretted the hour when his chivalrous loyalty procured for an unworthy Prince a bride of whose love and self-sacrifice he was wholly undeserving.

## KILTEEL CASTLE.

BY THE EARL OF MAYO.

**K**ILTEEL CASTLE, or, as pronounced in the Irish language, *Kilheale*, or the Church of Sheil. I have been at some pains to arrive at an account of this old castle of defence, situated about six miles east of Naas, in the barony of Salt.

Before the English, or rather Anglo-Normans, came to Ireland, A.D. 1169-82, there were no castles like the one this note treats of, and to bear out this confident assertion on my part, I must refer to a work of Dr. Petrie's that exists only in manuscript in the Royal Irish Academy, entitled, "An Essay on the Military Architecture in Ireland previous to the English Invasion," pp. 3, 4.

Dr. Petrie says: "The venerable and patriotic Charles O'Connor, a man profoundly read in the ancient annals of this country, and not wholly free from national prejudice, confesses, rather than asserts, that the ancient Irish, in their wars with the English, were *at last* obliged to avail themselves of the arts of their enemies by erecting strongholds and castles, and that gaverise to stone buildings in Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, and soon after in Ulster. Even the Damliogs, or stone churches, erected before the arrival of the English, he considers to have been few in number, and that the Church of St. Cianan, built in the 6th century, is the first instance of any stone building erected in the kingdom."

Dr. Petrie, in his Essay, also gives a list of castles in Ireland, extracted from the second volume of the "Annals of the Four Masters." *Kilheale*, or *Kilteel*, is not mentioned, but these castles that now are known in the county Kildare are given, viz. *Castlederwood* (*Castledermot*), *Kilkea*, built by the *Lacyes*. *Castle Carbry* (*Carbery*), by the *Berminghams*. Now as to the history of the old Castle of *Kilteel*, or *Kilheale*, the earliest I can find is this:—A Commandery for Knights Hospitallers was founded here by Maurice Fitzgerald in the

13th century. I might here explain what a commandery is. Wherever the Knights Hospitallers or Knights of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem erected castles or houses on their manors in the country, such places were called commanderies, and the knight who superintended was styled preceptor or commendator. Chapters of the Order of Knights Hospitallers were held in A.D. 1326, 1332, 1333, 1334; then in 1335, actual mention of this castle is made, and I give it in full:—

“The Prior of Kilmainham appointed Robert Clifford porter of the Commandery, at the same time ordering him a proper clothing and half a marc sterling for shoes; and if he should choose to diet in his chamber he should have the apartment beyond the gate of the Castle, but which he was to repair at his own cost and charge.”

I fear Clifford did not repair his apartment, as one can see no trace of it now, being most likely built over by the present more modern buildings now in ruins.

We then find by a Patent Roll of the 32nd year of Henry VIII. (1541) a hint as to this castle or place of defence, viz. “an Inrolment of an Indenture by which Sir John Rawson, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in Ireland, and his co-brethren, in that the preceptory lordship or manor of Kilheale, in Kildare county, is situated in the marches thereof, near the Irish enemies the Tholes (O’Toole’s), where *resistance and defence* are required, grant to Thomas Alen and Mary, his wife, the said lordship and all castles, messuages, &c., in Kilheale, &c., for ever, for the rent of £5.” After this date there is a great gap and lapse of years, and I find no mention of the castle. A search in the Record Office produced a like result; perhaps a reference to family records might elicit some information. However, through the kindness of Mr. J. A. Kennedy, of Newcastle, Co. Kildare, the present owner of the Castle of Killeel and adjoining lands, I have been enabled to fill in a little of the gap between 1541 and more modern times; the oldest paper Mr. Kennedy has in his possession is a lease from Lord Tyrconnell to Daniel Reading, 1669.

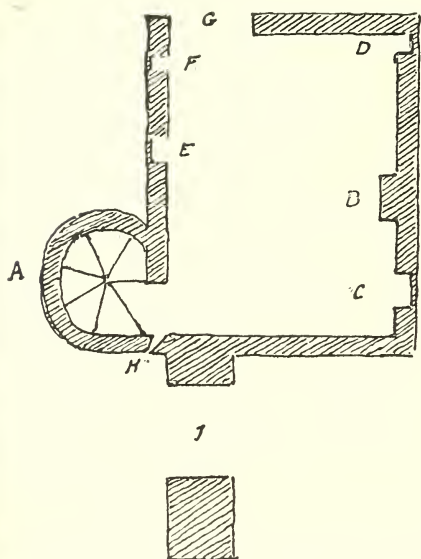
The trustees of the forfeited estates assigned Killeel from the Earl of Tyrconnell to the Hollow Sword Blade Company in 1703; and the Hollow Sword Blade Company to Sir William Fownes, 1706. Sir W. Fownes married in 1739 Lady Elizabeth Ponsonby, and Killeel was settled mostly on her. Killeel Castle and lands were left by Sir W. Fownes to W. F. Fownes Tighe, 1773. Sir John Kennedy bought the property from W. F. Fownes Tighe in 1838, from whom it came to Mr. J. A. Kennedy’s father, and so to him.

Kilteel Castle is mentioned in the Ordnance Survey of Ireland Manuscripts by T. A. O'Connor, 1837. He notes a curious fact that the patron day of the parish of Kilteel (or Kilheale as it is generally written in the mediæval records) is St. John, whereas the church at Kill, in the adjoining parish, is dedicated to St. John. Perhaps some confusion may have arisen between Kilheale and Killhill, a hill at the back of the village of Kill, the real patron saint of Kill being St. Brigid—but more on this another time.

In *The Dublin Penny Journal* of Oct. 19, 1833, there is a sketch of Kilteel Castle, by B. Wright. It states in the article that a gentleman in the neighbourhood was present when an ancient suit of armour was dug up on some part of the land in the immediate vicinity of the ruin. The account in the *Dublin Penny Journal* is very vague, and gives nothing definite about the old castle. However, having searched for all information I could, I determined to go and see the place for myself. On December 20, 1891, I, in company with a friend, visited Kilteel old castle, and while I was making notes and taking measurements, he made a few drawings of the old place. The castle stands in a grove of trees on the left of the road as you come from Dublin, and consists of a tower twenty-six feet eight by twenty feet six and a-half, and forty-six feet high. On the north side a little round turret, containing a staircase to reach the upper floors of the castle, abuts the angle of the castle itself; next to this is the gateway.

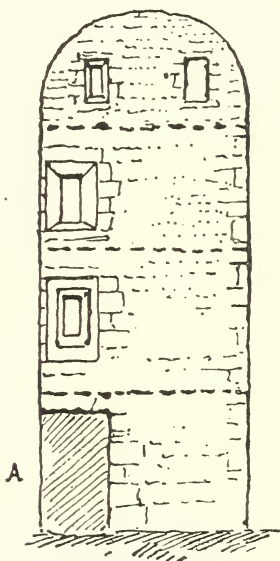
As one enters the castle through the gateway, ruins of modern buildings are on the right, the whole forming a courtyard, which is ankle-deep in mud, is partly divided by a low wall. The walls of the courtyard may be old, but I imagine some former owner had erected graduated battlements in some places. However, the large archway must have led to some kind of a courtyard. One enters the castle by a door, and one finds oneself in an arched chamber, admirably suited for the foundation of such heavy masonry. Turning to the left, up the winding stone staircase, in the little turret one notices a small round spyhole, which commands the gate. The castle is built of limestone; and this spyhole, made of a piece of pierced granite, is with the fireplace on first floor—the only granite I could find in the castle. There are eleven stone steps to reach the first storey. The castle seems to have consisted of three storeys and an upper chamber, the roof of which is arched exactly like the one in the basement, which supports the whole castle. Fireplaces are visible on each storey except the top one. Three steps to the left from the first floor takes you to the chamber over the gate-





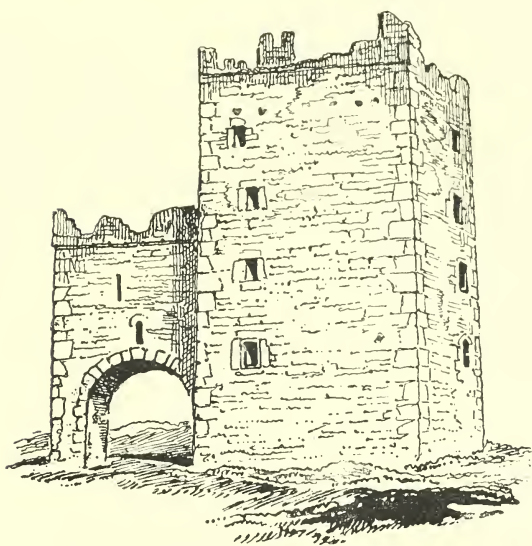
GROUND PLAN OF 1ST FLOOR.

- A. Spiral staircase of Tower.
- B. Fireplace.
- C, D, E, F. Recess windows.
- G. Doorway, 4 feet from ground, modern.
- H, A. Spy-hole commanding gateway.
- I. Gateway.

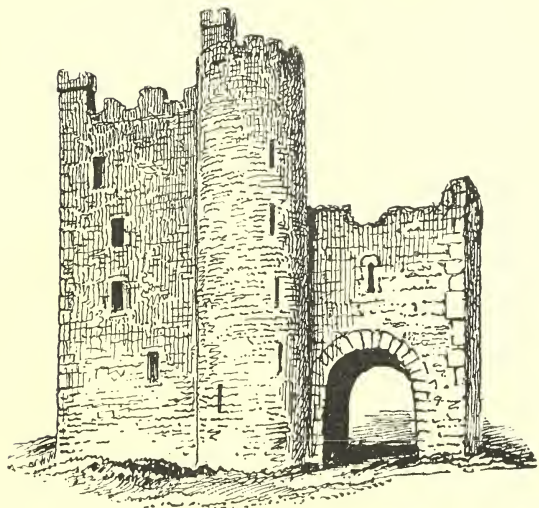


East Wall, from the Inside.  
 A is an open Doorway, evidently modern.

KILTEEL CASTLE.



Entrance Gate, from the South.  
(Height, 48 feet; breadth, 26 feet).



Entrance Gate, from the North.

KILTEEL CASTLE.





way which seems to have had two apartments, one over the other. Then returning and ascending, thirty-two steps takes one to the third storey where there is no flooring. The entrance to the second storey is walled up. Fifty-seven more steps, and one finds oneself on the roof of the castle.

On gazing over the battlements the old stone projecting gargoyles for taking off the rain-water are distinctly seen as fresh-looking as the day they were cut out of the limestone. The centre of the arched roof is flagged from end to end with large flat stones as if for a sentry walk. The staircase up the tower is lighted with the usual slits, with widened recesses in the inside. There are four oblong windows on all sides of the castle except the west side; they generally measure eleven inches by one foot eleven, and the holes for iron bars are still perceptible. To return now to the roof, six rough steps projecting from the battlemented wall takes you to the top of the little round turret, and there a beautiful view extends before one. To the south the low hills of the Co. Wicklow are seen, and it may be noticed how admirably the castle was placed in a sort of half basin, so that it commanded the approach of any of the Irish enemies as they appeared over the hills. To the north the eye reaches far over the grassy plain of Kildare, and one may well ponder, with such a landscape stretching before one, on the many changes and many strange men and scenes the old castle of Killeel has looked down upon.

The authorities I have referred to in this note are : *Monasticon Hibernicum*, also Moran's edition of same; Dr. Petrie's Essay before-mentioned; Irish Ordnance Survey Manuscripts for Co. Kildare, 1837; *Dublin Penny Journal*, 1833.

## Miscellanea.

**Lattin Alms-house.**—Through the kindness of Mr. George Mansfield, of Morrystown Lattin, I have been enabled to ascertain about three stones, which are in a cottage wall on the left-hand side of the road as one enters Naas from Dublin. The cottage faces the Sallins-road.

It would seem that an alms-house for poor women was founded at Naas in 1590 by William Lattin, of Morrystown, and Anne Lutterell, of Lutterellstown, his wife.

The original foundation appears to have been merely to afford a home for a certain number of poor women, as no money appears to have been left to support them; but later on, Catherine Lattin, *née* O'Farrell, bequeathed £100, late Irish currency, for their support. Several other members of the Lattin family bequeathed small sums in perpetuity for the support of its inmates, and there is at present a charge on the Lattin estate of £20 a-year for that purpose, regularly paid.

The house was twice pulled down, first in 1787, to widen the street, and again in 1798, during the rebellion, to enable the artillery to place their guns in position.

There are three inscribed stones set in the front wall; the first bears the names of the founders and date of foundation: "Gul. Lattin de Morrystown et Anna Luterell de Lutterellstown, me fieri fecerunt anno m<sup>o</sup>xc." The inscription on the second stone is not decipherable. On the third we have a Scripture text: "Wealth maketh many friends, but the poor is separated from his neighbour." This is taken from Prov. xix. 4.

When the house was pulled down in 1798, Mr. T. Plunkett, the agent of the property, took charge of these stones, and replaced them when the house was rebuilt. Luttrellstown was the old name of Woodlands, in the Co. Dublin.—MAYO.

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Seal of the County Kildare Archæological Society.—The Seal which appears on the cover of the JOURNAL has been arranged by the Hon. Gerald Ponsonby and Mr. Arthur Vicars,

and engraved in wood in the best manner by Messrs. Swain & Son, some of whose work will be familiar to many of us. It will be observed that it is composed of three coats of arms—firstly, the arms of the town of Naas (arg. a snake erect, wavy, sa.); secondly, the arms of our first President, the Duke of Leinster (arg. a saltire gu.); and, thirdly, the arms of our Hon. Secretary, the Earl of Mayo (Per fesse or, and ermine, a cross gu.; in the first quarter a lion ramp., and in the second a sinister hand coupé at the wrist, both sa.), who has been so instrumental in establishing the Society. The Council have had copies printed as book-plates to place in the Society's books, and they would take this opportunity of mentioning that they will be glad to receive additions to the Society's library, which they hope may form the nucleus of a valuable reference library for the use of members.

## Notes and Queries.

**The Bell of Castledermot.**—The bell of Castledermot Church, which hangs in the round tower, bears the following inscription:—

“THE : UNION : OF : CASTLEDERMOT : C : L : FOUNDER : 1735 : ”

Can anyone tell me who “C.L.” was, and where his foundry?  
—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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**Roadside Crosses.**—There is the base of an old roadside cross, with hole for the insertion of the stem of the cross, a little way out of Clane, where the path to the limestone quarry leaves the road. This is called by the people in the neighbourhood a “wart stone,” as it is supposed to cure warts.

In a map of the Co. Kildare, by Noble and Keenan, A.D. 1752, there are marked two roadside crosses, within a short distance of one another, at Little Rath, between Sallins and Straffan: of these the bases alone remain. The larger of the two is now in the farmyard at Prospect, nearly opposite to the spot on which it formerly stood. Of the inscription only the words “me fecet” (*sic*) can be made out. The base of the second cross, which is somewhat smaller, is built into the boundary wall of Little Rath, about two hundred feet further on. These crosses were probably erected on spots where some fatal accidents happened. A memorial tablet, with small incised cross, has recently been placed in the wall of a bridge crossing a large drain, about half-way between Millicent Bridge and the new church of St. Michael, in memory of a stranger who dropped dead on the spot.—W. S.

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**The Breedoge.**—Can anyone inform me if the old custom of carrying round “The Breedoge” on St. Bridget’s Eve or Day (the 1st of February) is still kept up? Formerly, I am told, a figure was dressed up to represent the patron saint of Kildare, St. Bridget. This figure was called “The Breedoge” (Bride Oge), or “Young Bridget,” and carried round by the young people from house to house asking for coppers, in the same way as the wren on a holly bush is carried round on St. Stephen’s Day. The result of the day’s round was spent in a jollification. I believe this was a local custom peculiar to the neighbourhood of Kildare.—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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**Kildare “Ex Libris.”**—As I am forming a collection of book-plates (Ex Libris) of families of the County Kildare and the districts embraced by the K. A. S., I should be much obliged if members

would kindly send me specimens of any such plates that they may have. I hope at some later period to be able to show at one of our meetings as many Kildare book-plates—ancient and modern—as I can procure, and if possible contribute some illustrated notes on them to the JOURNAL.  
—ARTHUR VICARS.

**Ashe of Moone.**—In the Rath of Moone lies the body of a counsellor, Thomas Ashe; the spot is marked by a block of masonry about 3 feet in height, on which rested a large limestone slab, but which is now displaced, probably by the rubbing of cattle, and rests on its side in a broken state against the masonry; on it is the following inscription, incised, with a coat-of-arms cut in relief (now disfigured) above it:—

Under this Stone lies the Body of  
THOMAS ASHE Esq<sup>r</sup> who was  
interred here at his own Request Nine  
feet deep the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1741 in memory  
of whom this Stone and Wall was made  
and Erected at the Expense of his  
three Sisters Mary Deborah and Martha

Can anyone tell me who this Counsellor Ashe was, why he was buried in this out-of-the-way spot, and what the family coat-of-arms is?—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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**The Book of Kildare.**—A correspondent writes from England:—“I have a book of the ‘Hours of the Virgin,’ in French, containing pictures of various saints, French and English. In one part of it there is a calendar of deaths of some famous people—Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester; Thomas, Earl of Kildare; and several others of the Kildare family, though the crests and arms do not correspond to those borne by them at present. On the first page is a hymn to the Virgin. The illuminations are evidently of French workmanship, about the early part of the fifteenth century. Is this the lost Book of Kildare mentioned by Miss O. S. Blackburne in *Illustrious Irishwomen?*”

To this query we answer: the idea of the lost Book of Kildare, I believe, has had its origin in the description given of a MS. that was preserved at Kildare by Giraldus Cambrensis in his *Topographia Hibernica*, Dist. II. cap. xxxviii. Some have thought the description refers to the famous Book of Kells; but it suits equally well other ancient Irish MSS., and it is but natural to suppose that in such a great church as Kildare, so much venerated on account of its foundress and patron, St. Brigid, there would be copies of the Scriptures and liturgical works of the most precious kind. One thing is sure: the MS. above mentioned by our correspondent is not the Book of Kildare which Giraldus describes, as is evident from the mention in it of Tiptoft, &c. Our correspondent would do our Society a favour if he would send the book for exhibition at one of our meetings.—D. M.

**Curious Latin expression in a Manuscript.**—In a note to an old illuminated pedigree of circa 1600, I lately came across the following expression, which I subjoin in the hope that it may be elucidated.

The note refers to the foundation of a monastery in 1112 by one Paganus:—

“Nam liber Barnewellensis ait eum postquam Canonicorum prioratum adeo desolatum ingemiscens conspexisset in hæc verba prorupisse Triginta Anorum fui Baptismo regeneratus: Triginta Anorum ero in novissimo die resuscitandus: [*sic*] Triginta hic constituam Canonicos.”

It seems to be some allusion to the thirty years of our Lord's age. Does any one remember to have met with the expression before?  
—ARTHUR VICARS.

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**Graney.**—At the back of the forge at Graney, near Castledermot, in a potato garden, is a small well, now disused, called “Mary's Well”; it stands close to where a nunnery stood in old times. About twelve years ago, either over or beside this well, was a limestone block, covered with ancient carving, such as ornamental devices and letters in relief; the letters are said to have been of a strange shape, and in consequence the stone became known as the “Greek Stone,” and many persons used to come to see it. Unfortunately, about twelve years ago, the smith of the neighbouring forge, a man named Ryan, went off his head, and, among many other mad acts, took his sledgehammer and battered the “Greek Stone” with it, so that now nothing can be made out on the stone at all.

I should be very glad to know if ever a rubbing was taken of the stone, or if it is known whether the letters on it were in a foreign character, and what the inscription was?—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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**Castlesize.**—Mr. R. M. Maunders having inquired as to the origin of the name of his residence Castlesize, D. M. kindly supplies the following:—

The name is probably derived from the Irish *capán na póilpe*, i. e. the path of the lamp. Before Millicent Bridge was built the river was usually crossed at the ford close by Castle Size House; the high road ended here, and was changed only in the time of the great-grandfather of the present owner. A lamp or light of some kind was often set up at a dangerous ford to guide those who were crossing. Ardsolus, a station on the Limerick and Ennis Railway, is really *at póilpe*, the ford of the light. A well-known tradition in that part of the country says the friars of the neighbouring monastery of Quin used to keep a lamp lighted there at night to direct travellers when crossing the ford—a very dangerous one, no doubt, when the river was swollen. See on this subject Joyce's *Irish Names of Places*, i. 203.—D. M.

**The Kildare Militia Colours.**—In the hall of Kilkea Castle are hung the old colours of the Kildare Militia. The king's colours are a Union Jack, in the centre of which is embroidered an ornamental shield or frame, above which is a crown, while a wreath of shamrocks, thistles, and roses surrounds them; in the middle of the shield is inscribed:—

KILDARE  
OR IV  
BATTALION  
MILITIA

The regimental colours are a broad red S. George's Cross, on a black ground, with a Union Jack in the upper corner near the staff. In the middle of the cross is a like design as is on the king's colours, also embroidered in colours; in this case the frame, or shield, is inscribed:—

KILDARE  
MILITIA



—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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**Bibliography of the Co. Kildare.**—Would members be good enough to send me full title, author's name, place of publication, and date, and, if possible, size of—

(i.) Books or pamphlets treating wholly of places in the County Kildare and the surrounding districts.

(ii.) References to articles in books and periodicals treating of Kildare subjects.

With the kind aid of members I hope thus to be able to compile an exhaustive bibliography of the Co. Kildare and surrounding districts.  
—ARTHUR VICARS.

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**The Kildare Militia.**—In an old Irish magazine I have come across the following bits of information; the magazine is the *Anthologia Hibernica*, and the number for August, 1793, says:—At a ballot held at the Treasury Chambers for settling the precedence of the Militia of the several counties, and counties of cities, in Ireland, the Regiments were drawn in the following order, and take rank accordingly:—

Monaghan,	. . . . .	No. 1
Tyrone,	. . . . .	,, 2
Mayo, North,	. . . . .	,, 3
Kildare,	. . . . .	,, 4
Louth,	. . . . .	,, 5, &c.

And so on up to 38.

In the number for June, 1794, is:—

“The Duke of Leinster (William Robert, the 2nd Duke) has accepted the command of the Kildare Militia, which are to be embodied immediately.”

In the August number of the same year we find the following:—

“From the *Dublin Gazette*, 5th August, 1794.

“Commissions signed by his Grace the Duke of Leinster, Lieutenant-Colonel, Commandant of the County of Kildare regiment of Militia:—

To be Lieut.-Colonel, . . .	Keating, Esq.
„ Major, . . . . .	Thomas Tickell, Esq.
„ Captains, . . . . .	{ Dominick William O'Reilly, Esq. John Wolfe, Esq.
„ Capt.-Lieut., . . . . .	{ James Carlisle, Esq. John Walker Esq.
„ Lieutenants, . . . . .	{ Stephen Richard Rice, gent. Walter Carroll, gent. Meredith Cal. Chambre, gent. Garret Tyrrel, gent.
„ Ensigns, . . . . .	{ William Aylmer, gent. Alexander Graydon, gent. James Medlicot, gent. Elias Handcock Parker, gent. William Donnellan, gent.
„ Chaplain, . . . . .	Rev. William Read.
„ Adjutant, . . . . .	John Walker, gent.
„ Quarter-Master, . . . . .	Meredith Cal. Chambre, gent.
„ Surgeon, . . . . .	Alexander Graydon, gent.
„ Agent, . . . . .	Edward Taylor, Esq.

As the king's colours include the St. Patrick's Cross, together with those of St. Andrew and St. George, the colours must date from the year of the Union—1800. I can find no early regimental records in the Militia Orderly Room, and in fact I was told that they had been destroyed by an orderly-room clerk named Jones, some years ago, to make room for recent documents; so that I should be pleased to get any information on the regiment's early history, or about the old colours, and also where information as to its officers year by year is to be found.—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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**Hibernis ipsis Hiberniores.**—Can any of your members tell me who is the author of the well-known *phrase*: “Hibernis ipsis Hiberniores”? The *thought* occurs in Spenser, Davis, and several other writers. The question will be found in *Notes and Queries*, 1st Series, vii. 366. The answer given there, to put it mildly, is not satisfactory.—D. M.



# JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

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## Proceedings.

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THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, the 27th January, 1892, in the Town Hall, Naas :

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER, President, in the Chair.

The following Members of the Council were present:—The Archdeacon of Kildare; Mr. T. Cooke-Trench; Lord Walter FitzGerald; Mr. George Mansfield; The Rev. Denis Murphy; The Rev. Canon Sherlock; Mr. H. Hendrick Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; The Earl of Mayo and Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Hon. Secretaries*.

In addition the following Members and Visitors attended:—

Countess of Mayo; Mrs. Cooke-Trench; Col. R. J. Pratt Saunders; Mrs. Hans Hendrick Aylmer; Mr. Algernon Aylmer; Mr. E. and Mrs. Molloy; Mr. J. Lock, C.I.R.L.C., and Mrs. Lock; Mr. and Mrs. S. V. Coote; Rev. T. Morrin, P.P.; Misses Sherlock; Mr. T. J. de Burgh and Mrs. de Burgh; Mr. E. Sweetman; General and Mrs. M'Mahon; Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe; Mr. Mark A. Taylor; Miss Weldon; Rev. James Carroll, c.c.; Mr. Thomas Greene, LL.B.; Rev. M. Devitt, s.j.; Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j.; Lord and Lady Seaton; Rev. W. Fitzgerald, etc.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting having been read and signed, the Hon. Treasurer submitted his Report and State-

ment of Accounts of the Society for the year ending 31st December, 1891, which was approved of.

The following Resolutions were passed:—

Proposed by Lord Walter Fitz Gerald, and seconded by Mr. A. Vicars—

“That after the date of this Meeting any person wishing to become a Member of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society, must be proposed and seconded by a Member of the Society, and his name submitted to the Council for election.”

Proposed by the Earl of Mayo, and seconded by Mr. H. Hendrick Aylmer—

“That the question of the price of the JOURNAL to Non-Members be referred to the Council.”

It was decided that the Excursion Meeting for the year should be held at Athy and surrounding districts, on the 15th September.

In the absence of Bishop Comerford, through illness, the Rev. Thomas Morrin read a Paper on “The Ford of Ae: Some Historical Notes on the Town of Athy.”

Papers were also read—by the Rev. Canon Sherlock on “Notes Antiquarian and Historical on the Parish of Clane,” and by Lord Walter FitzGerald on “The Round Towers of Kildare: Their Origin and Use.”

It was proposed by Mr. George Mansfield, seconded by General MacMahon, and passed unanimously:—

“That the thanks of this Society are due, and are hereby tendered to Bishop Comerford, Canon Sherlock, Rev. Denis Murphy, and Lord Walter FitzGerald, for their Papers, and that they be referred to the Council for publication, if desirable, in the JOURNAL.”

The Rev. Thomas Morrin exhibited, for Bishop Comerford, a coin of the Roman Colony of Nismes, found at Nurney, Co. Kildare.

The Rev. Denis Murphy exhibited an ancient Irish Crozier, belonging to Clongowes Wood College.

Mr. Arthur Vicars showed a collection of Funeral Ceremonials of Royal and Distinguished Persons, Original Funeral Certificates of Heralds of the Sixteenth Century, Funeral Roll of Sir Nicholas Bacon (1578); also an Original Roll of Arms on vellum, *circa* 1500.

Thanks were tendered to these gentlemen for exhibiting these several objects of interest.

A vote of thanks to the Duke of Leinster for presiding terminated the proceedings.

## REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1892.

THE Society having come into existence in the commencement of 1891, the Council did not think it necessary to issue a Report until it had got thoroughly into working order, for indeed there was little work of importance to chronicle during the first year, which was chiefly devoted to organization.

The Council are now able to come before you after the lapse of two years with a most encouraging Report of the Society's progress.

Started as it was in the year 1891 by a few residents in the County, it has grown in a surprising way for a County Archæological Society, and there are now 103 members on its roll.

Turning to 1891, the year's work practically began with the first Excursion Meeting, when Naas was fitly selected as our rendezvous, and the objects of interest there, and in the surrounding district, were visited. The attendance was most encouraging, the arrangements for the excursion worked happily, and many members must have gone home knowing more about the history of their County than they did before.

On this occasion the Great Southern and Western Railway kindly acceded to the Council's request, and granted return tickets at single fares.

The year 1892 commenced with a General Meeting in January, at the Town Hall, Naas (which had been postponed on account of the lamented death of H. R. H. the Duke of Clarence), for the reading of Papers and transacting of general business, at which Meeting the Hon. Treasurer read his Report of 1891, showing the Society to be in prosperous circumstances.

Shortly after this the first number of the JOURNAL made its appearance. Owing to the difficulties attending the starting of such a periodical this portion of the Society's labours involved considerable trouble, and the Hon. Secretaries, who acted as Editors *pro tempore*, had to issue a notice with the JOURNAL, explaining the delay.

Our Excursion in the past year was appointed to take place in September at Athy. The chief difficulty that the Council had to contend with was how to bring our Members to the place of meeting. They decided upon procuring a special train, and they are happy to say that, owing to the large number who availed themselves of the accommodation, this special service cost the Society nothing.

At the Athy Meeting (a full report of which will appear in the JOURNAL) the whole Society and its visitors were most hospitably entertained at luncheon by Lord and Lady Seaton at Bert, where the company mustered some 150 strong. Those who had not to depart early to catch trains made a prolonged excursion to the Grangemellon side of Athy, where they were received by Sir Anthony and Lady Weldon, who had kindly invited them to tea at Kilmoroney. Here the lateness of the hour prevented the Members from continuing their pursuit of archæology, and brought this pleasant day to a close. The Council feel that they cannot allude to this excursion without mentioning the great assistance they received from Fr. Carroll, who aided so materially in the arrangements for the Meeting.

In November the Commissioners of Public Works wrote to this Society, inviting the opinion of the Council as to any ancient or mediæval structures which it would appear to them desirable to place under the provisions of section 1 of the Ancient Monuments Protection Act, 1892. The Council recommend that a Sub-Committee be appointed at this Meeting for considering this matter, and that their recommendations be forwarded to the Commissioners of Public Works as soon as convenient.

In the early part of last year the Hon. Secretaries having received an intimation that the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland were anxious to arrange for an Excursion Meeting to Dublin and neighbourhood, this Society, in conjunction with the Royal Irish Academy and the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, sent a formal invitation to the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland to hold their Summer Meeting in Ireland at an early opportunity, and, moreover, expressed their willingness to aid the Institute to the best means in their power to render their visit a success. The Royal Irish Academy kindly offered to place their fine rooms in Dawson-street at the service of the Royal Archæological Institute. The President and Council of the Royal Archæological Institute wrote, accepting the invitation of the three Irish Archæological Societies, and it has been arranged that this, the first visit of that Society to Ireland since its establishment in 1849, shall take place in the summer of 1894.

The Council would urge Members to further the work of the Society by using their best efforts to add to the Roll of Members, as the future practical work of the Society must depend in a great measure on the funds at its disposal for purposes of restoration and preservation of ancient monuments. They may

here mention that they propose this session to make a few small grants in this direction—one for the introduction of a recently discovered portion of the intermediate shaft of the fine Celtic Cross at Moone, which is unique and remarkable for its beauty.

You will be asked to reconsider Rule VII., as to the number of Ordinary Meetings of the Society, and the advisability of holding one Ordinary Meeting for the reading of Papers, and one Excursion Meeting.

It is hoped that two numbers of the JOURNAL may be issued in the forthcoming year. The Council invite Members to send in contributions for the JOURNAL, which, they would remind them, need not be solely concerning local antiquities, but on matters of general interest to antiquaries at large.

Since the Society was founded the following Antiquarian Societies have agreed to exchange publications :—

1. The Society of Antiquaries.
2. The Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.
3. The Royal Irish Academy.
4. The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire.

The Council take this opportunity of asking Members to note that they will be glad to receive contributions of literature for the Library, which, they hope, may lead to the formation of a useful library of reference. At some future time they hope to provide a proper depository for such books, to render them accessible to Members.

Two Members of the Council—Archdeacon de Burgh and Mr. Thomas Cooke-Trench—retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The financial condition of the Society is most satisfactory. A report of it will be read by the Hon. Treasurer.

In order to relieve the work of the Hon. Secretaries the Council have appointed Canon Sherlock Editor of the JOURNAL, he having kindly undertaken to act in that capacity.

In conclusion the Council would express a hope that many residents in the County who have not as yet joined the Society, will see the desirability of encouraging the preservation of the antiquities of the County, and enrol themselves as Members.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

LEINSTER, *President.*

MAYO,

ARTHUR VICARS, } *Hon. Secretaries.*

Dated this 18th day of January, 1893.

## LIST OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

(CORRECTED TO JANUARY 18, 1893.)

## President :

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER.

## Vice-President :

THE MOST REV. M. COMERFORD, D. D., COADJUTOR BISHOP OF  
KILDARE AND LEIGHLIN.

## Council :

LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A.  
THE VEN. MAURICE DE BURGH, ARCHDEACON OF KILDARE.  
THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A.  
THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.  
THOMAS COOKE-TRENCH, ESQ., D.L.  
GEORGE MANSFIELD, ESQ.

## Hon. Treasurer :

HANS HENDRICK AYLMEY, ESQ., KERDIFFSTOWN, NAAS.

## Hon. Secretaries :

THE EARL OF MAYO, PALMERSTOWN, STRAFFAN.  
ARTHUR VICARS, ESQ., F.S.A., *Ulster*, CLYDE-ROAD, DUBLIN.

## Editor :

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, SHERLOCKSTOWN, NAAS.

## Members :

[Officers are indicated by heavy type; Life Members by an (\*) asterisk.]

Rev. James Adams, Kill Rectory, Straffan.  
 Miss Archbold, Davidstown, Castledermot.  
 Miss Aylmer, Donadea Castle, Co. Kildare.  
 Algernon Aylmer, Rathmore, Naas.  
**H. HENDRICK AYLMEY**, Hon. Treasurer, Kerdiffstown, Naas.  
 \*Major Barton, D.L., Straffan House, Straffan Station.  
 Colonel Bonham, Ballintaggart, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.  
 Very Rev. Canon Brady, St. Laurence's Presbytery, Seville-place, Dublin.  
 J. T. Brooke, St. David's, Naas.  
 Rev. Hawtreay Browne, Naas.  
 Very Rev. Robert Browne, *President, Maynooth College*, Maynooth.  
 Very Rev. E. Burke, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

- Frederick Carroll, Moone Abbey, Moone.  
 Rev. James Carroll, Howth.
- \* Colonel Clements, Killadoon, Celbridge.  
 Mrs. Clements, do.
- \* Henry J. B. Clements, do.  
 D. P. Coady, M.D., Johnstown, Straffan.  
 Robert Cochrane, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., Hon. Sec. R.S.A.I., 17, Highfield-road,  
 Rathgar.
- Right Hon. W. F. Cogan, Tinode, Blessington.  
 Rev. J. F. Cole, The Rectory, Portarlington.
- Most Rev. M. COMERFORD, D.D.**, Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare. Vice-  
 President, Braganza, Carlow.
- Rev. J. Conmee, Belvidere College, Dublin.  
 Stanley Coote, St. Michael's, Clane.
- Very Rev. G. Y. Cowell, Dean of Kildare, The Deanery, Kildare.  
 Colonel the Hon. C. F. Crichton, Mullaboden, Ballymore-Eustace.
- Rev. E. Lewis-Crosby, 36, Rutland-square, Dublin.  
 J. Whiteside Dane, Osberstown Hill, Naas.
- R. S. Longworth-Dames, 21, Herbert-street, Dublin.  
 Robert Day, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., 3, Sydney-place, Cork.  
 M. Darby, M.D., Monasterevan.
- Colonel G. Dease, Celbridge Abbey, Celbridge.
- Ven. MAURICE DE BURGH**, Archdeacon of Kildare, St. David's, Naas.
- Thomas J. de Burgh, D.L., Oldtown, Naas.
- Rev. Matthew Devitt, Rector, Clongowes College, Clongowes, Sallins.  
 Thomas Drew, R.H.A., M.R.I.A., Gortnadrew, Monkstown.  
 J. A. Duncan, Athy.
- Laurence Dunne, Dollardstown House, Athy.  
 F. J. Falkiner, M.D., Spring Gardens, Naas.
- Rev. J. F. M. Ffrench, M.R.I.A., Ballyredmond House, Clonegal.
- \* Lady Eva FitzGerald, Kilkea Castle, Mageny, Co. Kildare.
- \* Lord Frederick FitzGerald, do.
- \* **LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A.**, Kilkea Castle, Mageny.  
 Rev. W. FitzGerald, The Vicarage, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.  
 Rev. M. Fogarty, Maynooth.
- Rev. C. W. Ganley, Kilkea Rectory, Mageny, Co. Kildare.  
 Rev. George Garrett, Kilmeague, Co. Kildare.
- J. Ribton Garstin, D.L., F.S.A., M.R.I.A., Braganstown, Castlebellingham.  
 Co. Louth.
- Edward Glover, 19, Prince Patrick-terrace, North Circular-road, Dublin.  
 Thomas Greene, Millbrook, Mageny.
- Thomas J. Hannon, Millview House, Athy.  
 Lady Higginson, Connellmore, Newbridge.  
 Michael F. Hogan, Celbridge.
- Rev. George Kelly, Clongowes College, Sallins.  
 Robert R. Kennedy, R.M., Carlow.
- William Kirkpatrick, Donacomper, Celbridge.  
 Rev. W. Somerville-Large, Carnalway Rectory, Kilcullen.
- \* **The DUKE OF LEINSTER, President**, Carton, Maynooth.  
 J. Lock, C.I. R.I.C., Naas.
- Miss A. F. Long, Woodfield, Kilcavan, Geashill.  
 General Mac Mahon, Craddockstown, Naas.
- Mrs. Mac Mahon, do.
- Rev. E. Maguire, Maynooth.  
 P. A. Maguire, 2, Oldtown-terrace, Naas.
- David Mahony, D.L., Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.  
 George Gun Mahony, do.
- GEORGE MANSFIELD**, Morrinstown Lattin, Naas.  
 Dowager Countess of Mayo, 20, Eaton-square, London, S.W.
- The EARL OF MAYO, Hon Secretary**, Palmerstown, Straffan.

- E. Molloy, Abbeyfield, Naas.  
 William R. Molloy, M.R.I.A., 17, Brookfield-terrace, Donnybrook.  
 Rev. Thomas Morrin, P.P., Naas.  
**Rev. DENIS MURPHY**, S.J., M.R.I.A., Milltown Park, Milltown, Co. Dublin.  
 Rev. Michael Murphy, St. Brigid's, Kildare.  
 Very Rev. E. O'Leary, Ballyna, Moyvalley.  
 Rev. Patrick O'Leary, Maynooth.  
 J. Casimir O'Meagher, M.R.I.A., 45, Mountjoy-square, S., Dublin.  
 Arthur Owen, Blessington.  
 Hon. Gerald Ponsonby, Palmerstown, Straffan.  
 Lady Maria Ponsonby, do.  
 Mrs. Pratt, Glenheste Manor, Kilbride, Co. Dublin.  
 Rev. William Ramsbott, Suncroft, Curragh Camp.  
 Major R. F. Rynd, Blackhall, Naas.  
 Colonel Saunders, D.L., Saunders' Grove, Baltinglass.  
 Lord Seaton, Bert House, Athy.  
**REV. CANON SHERLOCK**, Editor, Sherlockstown, Naas.  
 Rev. Richard D. Skuse, Ballykean Rectory, Portarlington.  
 J. Steede, LL.D., Rheban, Athy.  
 K. Supple, Robertstown, Co. Kildare.  
 J. R. Sutcliffe, Hibernian Bank, Naas.  
 E. Sweetman, Longtown, Naas.  
 Mrs. Sweetman, do.  
 Mark Taylor, Golden Fort, Baltinglass.  
 F. Evelyn Thornhill, Rathangan House, Rathangan.  
**THOS. COOKE-TRENCH**, D.L., Millicent, Naas.  
 Mrs. Cooke-Trench, do.  
**ARTHUR VICARS**, F.S.A., Ulster King-of-Arms, Hon. Secretary, Clyde-  
 road, Dublin.  
 Colonel Vigers, Holloden, Bagenalstown.  
 Colonel Wall, Knockareagh, Grange Con.  
 General Weldon, Forenaughts, Naas.  
 W. I. Wheeler, 32, Merrion-square, N., Dublin.  
 W. Grove White, 13, Upper Ormond-quay, Dublin.  
 G. de L. Willis, 4, Kildare-street, Dublin.  
 George Wolfe, Bishopsland, Ballymore-Eustace, Naas.  
 Robert L. Woolcombe, LL.D., M.R.I.A., 14, Waterloo-road, Dublin.

*Gon. Member :*

Miss Margaret Stokes.



## EXCURSION MEETING, 1892.

THE second Annual Excursion Meeting took place on Thursday, the 15th September. As had been previously arranged at the Winter Meeting, Athy and the surrounding district was selected for exploration.

Members and their friends assembled at the railway station from various parts of the county, and awaited the arrival of the special train from Dublin, which the Society had provided for the conveyance of Members to the scene of operations.

On the arrival of the special train with a contingent of over fifty strong, a move was made for the adjacent ruin of St. Michael's Church, where the Rev. J. Carroll discoursed on the history of this 14th-century ruin, after which the Society—some on foot and some in carriages—wended their way to The White Castle in the centre of the town. Here a most interesting collection of antiquities of local interest were exposed to view in a room of the castle. By the kind permission of the Chairman of the Town Commissioners some of the now defunct Corporation Records were exhibited, along with the ancient Corporation Seal kindly lent by the Duke of Leinster.

A most excellent Paper by Bishop Comerford was here read, and after the party had thoroughly inspected the Museum, and wandered over the rambling interior of the castle, they proceeded to St. John's, a few yards distant, which Mr. T. J. Hannon had kindly undertaken to describe. Here the proceedings were rendered somewhat uncomfortable by a downpour of rain, which continued until the members reached Woodstock, a short mile from Athy.

At Woodstock the Rev. James Carroll read an interesting Paper on the history of the Castle which, along with his other Papers read during the day, will be found in the pages of the JOURNAL.

At this stage of the day's progress the company made the first real use of the brakes and carriages which the Society had provided for their accommodation, and betook themselves in a long stream of vehicles to the charming residence of Lord and Lady Seaton, at Bert, who had kindly invited the whole Society to luncheon.

On their arrival at Bert the members were received by Lady Seaton, and most hospitably entertained—close on 150 persons availing themselves of the invitation. Before the company separated, the Duke of Leinster, President of the Society, proposed the health of Lord and Lady Seaton in fitting

words, which was responded to by Lord Seaton, after which a start was made for Kilberry.

At this point the river Barrow had to be crossed to reach the last place to be visited—Rheban Castle. While the carriages drove round by the bridge, the company went on foot across the fields to the banks of the river, where large boats were in readiness to convey them to the other side. Owing to the recent rains having flooded the low-lying lands, progression here was rendered rather difficult, especially for the fair members of the company, as it necessitated a change of route, involving one or two ditches to encounter; but these little obstacles only added to the merriment of the day's work, and were met with commendable resignation on the part of the ladies. Arrived at Rheban, Lord Walter Fitz Gerald proceeded to read his Paper, after which, in obedience to the reminders of the Hon. Secretaries that the time-table must be kept to, all present betook themselves to the vehicles, and back to Athy station, where the company arrived in ample time to catch the evening up-train.

In accordance with the programme, some sixty of the members and their friends, with commendable archæological zeal, continued their journey on to Grangemellon, on the other side of Athy, a description of which was given by Mr. Anthony Weldon. A passing notice can only be given of the wonderful military bridge built across the Barrow by Colonel Weldon in a few hours, as it is scarcely old enough as yet to come within the scope of archæological study. The members and their friends were received at Kilmoroney by Sir Anthony and Lady Weldon, who had offered tea to the whole party, which kind hospitality was very welcome after the exertions of the day. Sir Anthony Weldon exhibited some of his family treasures, including a fine old octagon silver jug, friezed in panel, and a pair of small tankards—old Nuremburg work—presented to Captain William Weldon by the Irish Parliament in 1631; also a watch that belonged to Charles I., and which came to the Weldon family from Bishop Juxon.

The close of the day brought this most successful and pleasant excursion to an end, and dusk had already set in when the carriages started on their way back to Athy. With the exception of a shower in the morning, the weather on the whole was all that could be desired. The elaborate arrangements in the train and carriage service made by the Executive for the conveyance of members and their friends to the various objects of interest worked well, and the time-table was adhered to throughout with praiseworthy punctuality—a most difficult matter in archæological excursions.

H. HENDRICK AYLMER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1892.

<b>Receipts.</b>		<b>Expenditure.</b>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance to credit, December 31st, 1891, . . .	55 14 5	By Swain & Co., engraving Seal for Society, &c., . . .	4 3 6
„ Subscriptions:—		„ Ponsonby & Weldrick, Printing, Stationery, . . .	3 2 6
2 Life Members, . . . . .	10 0 0	„ Browne & Nolan, Minute Books, MS. and Scrap Books, &c., . . . . .	1 7 6
92 Annual Members, . . . . .	46 0 0	„ Miss Manders, expenses photographing for Society, . . . . .	1 6 3
1 do. (1891), . . . . .	0 10 0	„ Gratuity to Town Sergeant, for preparing Town Hall, January, 1892, . . . . .	0 5 0
		„ Banker's Charges, . . . . .	0 1 3
		„ Stationery and Postage, . . . . .	3 5 0
		„ Balance, 31st December, 1892, . . . . .	98 13 5
	<hr/> £112 4 5		<hr/> £112 4 5
* In addition to the above there is still outstanding the account for—		Audited, and found correct,	
Printing JOURNAL, Vol. I., No. 1, . . .	£22 12 4	MAYO.	
Do. miscellaneous items, . . .	6 7 5	March 21, 1893.	
	<hr/> £28 19 9		

## R U L E S .

I. That this Society be called "The County Kildare Archæological Society."

II. That the purpose of the Society be the promotion of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

III. That the Society consist of a President, Vice-President, Council, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and Members. Ladies are eligible for Membership.

IV. That the affairs of the Society be managed by the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries, together with a Council of six members. That for ordinary business two shall form a quorum; but any matter upon which a difference of opinion arises shall be reserved for another meeting, in which three shall form a quorum.

V. That two Members of the Council shall retire by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

VI. That Members pay an Annual Subscription of Ten Shillings (due on the 1st of January), and that the payment of £5 shall constitute a Life Member.

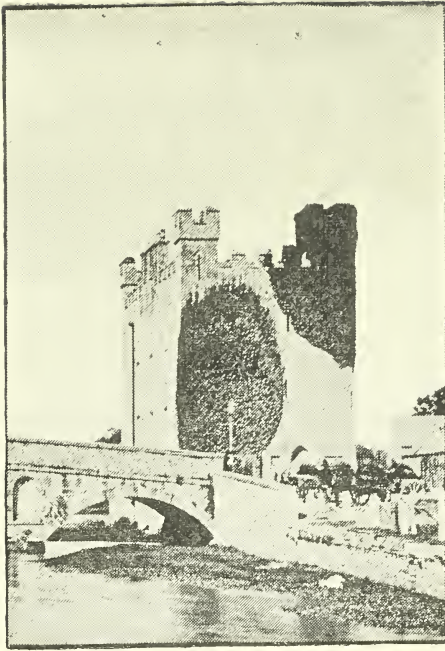
VII. That the Society shall meet three times in the year—twice for the purpose of reading Papers, and once for an excursion to some place of archaeological interest in the district.

VIII. That at the first Meeting of the Society in each year the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a balance-sheet.

IX. That a Journal of the Society be published annually, containing the Proceedings and a column for local Notes and Queries, which shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

X. That the Meetings of the year be fixed by the Council, due notice of the dates of the Meetings being given to Members.

XI. That Members be at liberty to introduce visitors at the Meetings of the Society.



THE WHITE CASTLE, ATHY.

“*THE FORD OF AE*” : *SOME HISTORICAL NOTES ON THE TOWN OF ATHY.*\*

By THE MOST REV. DR. COMERFORD, VICE-PRESIDENT,  
Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

**A**THY is called in Irish, *At-aoi*, “the Ford of Ae,” or, as the few Irish-speaking people in the locality have it, *Baille-ata-aoi*, “the Town of the Ford of Ae.” Why it came to be so named is explained by Keating. In the reign of Felim the Law-Giver (from A. D. 111 to 119), the men of Munster seized on Ossory and all the Leinster territories as far as Mullaghmast. They were ultimately expelled after a series of battles by an Ulster chief, Lewy Leeshagh, son of Cearnagh, chief of the Red Branch Knights of Ulster, in the first century. The first battle between the Munstermen and the forces of Lewy was fought at a place called, in consequence, *Ath-Truisden*, “the ford of conflict,” a ford on the river Greece, near Mullaghmast, in which

\* Read at the meeting of the Kildare Archæological Society, on Wednesday, 27th January, 1892.

the Munstermen were defeated. They retreated to the Barrow, where, at another ford, a second battle took place, with a similar result, and in which a Munster chief named Ae, the foster father of Ohy Finn Fohart, was slain, and from him the place was called Ath-I, that is, "the Ford of Ae."

Nine hundred years later, another memorable battle was fought at this same ford, which is thus described by O'Halloran:—"In 1014, Donogh, son of the Monarch of Ireland, Brian Boru, leading the Munster forces back after the battle of Clontarf, marched into Magh-Cloinne Ceallagh, or O'Kelly's country, in the vicinity of the present town of Athy. Donogh M'Gilla Patrick, Prince of Ossory, attempted to interrupt their march, and sent heralds to demand hostages of the Dalcassians—the picked troops of Brian Boru—or else the wager of battle. It is recorded that when the wounded men heard of this their strength and fury grew so that every man of them was able for battle. "Let stakes," they said, "be stuck in the ground, and let each of us, tied to and supported by one of those stakes, be placed in the ranks by the side of a sound man; our front will thus be the more extended, and by this means we shall be enabled to use our arms." Thus, continues the historian, between 700 and 800 wounded men, pale, emaciated, and supported as above, appeared, mixed with the foremost of the troops. Never was such another sight exhibited! The Ossorians marched to the attack with full assurance of victory; but, when they regarded the condition of almost half the enemy they were to attack, pity and admiration succeeded to resentment. In vain Fitzpatrick called them forth to battle; in vain he urged that so decisive an opportunity would never occur again. His allies—to their honour be it told—absolutely refused to engage the troops of North Munster in their present condition. The record further states that 150 of the wounded men died, when their excitement ceased, after the wager of battle had been refused by their opponents. Moore, in his poem "Remember the Glories of Brian the Brave," makes allusion to this stirring event:—

Forget not our wounded companions who stood,  
 In the day of distress, by our side;  
 While the moss of the valley grew red with their blood,  
 They stirred not, but conquered and died.

In further allusion to this event we find this locality referred to as "the Red Ford," and "the Red Meadow," in Dowling's Annals.

The town of Athy appears to have originated in the foundation of the two monasteries here in the middle of the thirteenth century. As these religious houses were founded by the English settlers, not only the monks, but the inhabitants of the town were principally of that nation. To these were granted the immunities of a merchant or market town—such as fairs and markets, with authority to levy customs and tolls—and as such it is mentioned prior to the fifteenth century. By an Act of Parliament, 25th of Henry VI., A.D. 1448, these customs were to be charged only on goods sold and exposed for sale in the town, and not on such as were carried on the road through the town, or bought or sold out of it.\* Being exposed to the assaults of the neighbouring septs, especially the O'Mores and the O'Kellys, whose territories adjoined, the town was in consequence fortified from an early date. In 1308 the town was burned by the Irish. In 1309, on Candlemas Day, the Lord John Bonneville was slain near the town of Ardscull by the Lord Anthony Power and his followers. His body was buried in Athy in the Church of the Friars Preachers. In the following year, at a Parliament holden at Kildare, the Lord Anthony Power was acquitted of that slaughter, for that it was proved it was done in self-defence.—(*Hollinshed.*)

In 1315 Athy was plundered by the Scots under Edward Bruce, who gained the battle of Ardscull, in which were slain Haymond le Grace and Sir William Prendergast, and on the side of the Scots, Sir Fergus Andressan and Sir Walter Murray, all of whom were buried in the Dominican Abbey of Athy.—(*Camden.*)

In 1317 Sir John Athy, a native of this town, took at sea a noted pirate named Thomas Dover, cut off his head and brought it to Dublin.—(*Id.*)

In 1413 Sir John Talbot, afterwards Lord Furnivall, was appointed to the government of Ireland. This was the Sir John Talbot of Hallamshire, who afterwards, as Earl of Shrewsbury, was so conspicuous a warrior in the reign of Henry VI. He received the title of Lord Furnivall by courtesy through his wife, eldest daughter and heiress of William, the last Lord Furnivall. He maintained an able Government in Ireland on scanty means, his income for that purpose amounting to little more than £2600 a-year. Amongst the measures he took for the protection of the Pale was the erection of a fortress at Athy, where he also built a bridge. This we learn from a curious

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\* A road to the south of the town is still called *Bohur-na-varaga*, "the Pedlar's road," where, no doubt, wares were sold free of duty.

document published in *Ellis's Letters*, where it is stated to have been "taken out of the White Book of the Exchequer, burnt in Sir Francis Angir's chest, at Jacob Newman's, anno. 1610." It appears that Lord Furnivall found such difficulty in obtaining money supplies from England to carry on his government that he at last determined to go there in person to seek the payment of arrears. The English settlers in Ireland, fearing what might happen in his absence, addressed a letter to the king, urging that Furnivall's claims might be granted, and thus render his journey unnecessary. Amongst other things in his favour, this document states:—"He hath accomplished divers other journeys and labours for the said relief and comfort of your faithful lieges on this side the sea, and in especially at the making hereof, in repairing and mending of a bridge called the bridge of Athy, set in the frontier of the borders of the Irish enemies of Leix, for the safe keeping whereof he hath erected a new tower upon the same for a ward, to put therewith a great fortification about the same, for resistance of the said enemies, to the great comfort and relief of the English, and great overthrow of the Irish enemies, by which bridge your faithful lieges, both here and elsewhere, may suffer their goods and cattle to remain in the fields day and night, without being stolen or sustaining any other loss, which hath not been seen here by the space of these thirty years past. God be thanked and your gracious provision." The full text of this most curious document has been reprinted in Robins's *London and Dublin Magazine* for the year 1827 (p. 596). Amongst a long list of signatures attached to it, are those of the Prior of the House of St. John's, Naas; the Archdeacon of Kildare; the Commons of Naas; the Commons of Clane; the Commons of Tristledermott (Castledermott); the sheriff of Kildare; John White of Connall; Nicholas Brown, Patrick Flattesbury, John Eustace of Newlands, &c., &c.

In 1422, the Lord Justiciary of Ireland, James le Botteler, Earl of Ormond, considering Athy, from its position on the Irish frontier, to be one of the keys of the marches of Kildare, and necessary to be maintained for the defence of those parts, placed it in the custody of a military governor.—(*Lewis's Top. Dict.*)

About the year 1506, Gerald, the 8th Earl of Kildare, built several castles in the County of Kildare and the counties adjoining, to strengthen the possessions of the Crown. The erection of the castle of Athy is generally ascribed to this period. We have seen, however, that nearly a century previously a tower and fortifications had been built by Lord Furnivall "on the



bridge of Athy," as it is phrased in the record. It may have been that the Earl of Kildare, on this occasion, so remodelled the existing fortress that it might be considered as a new building. This castle was afterwards, in 1575, repaired and enlarged. Of this fortress only one embattled tower remains. It was used in the last century as a prison, being an appendage to the county jail of Naas. It subsequently was converted into a police barrack, but has lately ceased to be used for that or any other purpose. Two sculptured stones are inserted in the wall, one bears the Fitzgerald arms, with the motto of the Order of the Garter; the other has a Latin inscription:—

RICARDUS COSSEN, PREPOSITUS VILLAE  
DE ATHIE, POSUIT HUNC LAPIDEM,  
VIGESIMO SEPTIMO MENSIS JUNII,  
AN. DOM. 1575, ANNO REGNI REGINAE  
ELIZABETH DECIMO SEPTIMO.  
MOIHLINI O KELLE.

(Richard Cossen, Governor of Athy, placed this stone, on the twenty-seventh of the month of June, 1575, the seventeenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.)

The name of district, Maicline O'Ceallagh, or O'Kelly's territory, in which this castle stands, is added.

In the State Papers we meet with various personages taking the name of this town for a surname, thus: In 1270, John of Athy is mentioned; in 1278, William of Athy was presented to the Church of Aghaboe; in 1284, protection during pleasure was granted to William of Athy, sergeant of the King; in 1275, 50*s.* were paid to Peter of Athy, merchant, being half the amount due for two hogsheads of wine delivered to Geoffrey de Gennevillen, then justiciary, the payment of the remaining half being duly recorded four years afterwards. In 1283 a payment was made to John of Athy, for wheat and oats bought of him for maintenance of the justiciary, the amount being £13 10*s.*; in 1293, Laurence of Athy, appears as attorney for Nicholas, Bishop of Kildare; and finally, we have Sir John Athy, in 1317, the records stating that he was a native of this town, taking a noted pirate at sea and bringing his head to Dublin. The name is still borne by an old and respectable family, the head of which is Randal Athy, Esq., of Greenville, Co. Galway.

In 1536 we find in the Patent Rolls a command from the King to the Lord Deputy, Lord Leonard Gray, to appoint

Martin Pelles Constable of Athy. And in a letter to the King, dated June the 24th, 1536, the same Lord Deputy states that he has provided victuals, lime, masons, and carriage, intending to re-edify the castle and bridge of Athy and the manor of Woodstock.—(*Cal. State Papers.*)

In 1546, as the Four Masters inform us, O'More and the son of O'Connor, namely, Roderick, attacked the town of Ath-Ai, burned the town and the monastery, and committed great destruction by burning and slaughter on the English and Irish inhabitants on that occasion. Thereupon Anthony St. Leger marched a second time into Offaly and remained fifteen days in the country plundering, spoiling, and burning churches and monasteries, and destroying cattle and corn. He garrisoned the town (of Athy, according to Ware, Cox, &c. ; Dr. Donovan thinks it was Dangan or Philipstown) against O'Connor with 100 horsemen, 100 musketeers, 100 battle-axe men, and 100 soldiers, with their attendants, and left plenty of provisions and all other necessaries.

The eighth Earl of Kildare, the more effectually to secure the borders and to induce the gentlemen of the county to pay attention to them, procured, in the reign of Henry VII., an Act of Parliament appointing the Assizes of the County of Kildare to be held at Naas and Athy, and that they should not be altered or removed from these towns unless by a subsequent Act of Parliament. This arrangement remained in force until the year 1859, when the last assizes were held at Athy.

In 1615, Sir Robert Digby, who had married Lettice, daughter of Gerald, Lord Offaly, obtained from King James I. a charter of incorporation for Athy. In this deed the corporation is styled "The sovereign, bailiffs, free burgesses, and commonalty of the Borough of Athy." The officers of the Corporation were a sovereign, who was also a justice of the peace, two bailiffs, twelve burgesses, a recorder, and several minor officers. The sovereign and bailiffs were elected annually, on June 24th, feast of St. John the Baptist, out of the body of the burgesses, and were sworn into office on the 29th September, the feast of St. Michael. The burgesses were elected for life out of the body of the freemen. This borough returned two members to the Irish Parliament until the Union, when, of the £15,000 awarded as compensation for the abolition of the elective franchise, £13,800 was paid to the Duke of Leinster as proprietor of the borough, and £1200 to Lord Ennismore.

The ancient seal of the corporation displays a tower on a bridge, with a coroneted shield on each side, and the legend—*Sigillum Burgi de Athy in Com. Kildar.* ("The Seal of the

Borough of Athy in the County of Kildare.”) The following is copied from the Corporation Archives:—

At an assembly of the sovereign, bailiffs, and free burgesses of the said borough of Athy, on the 30th Sept., 1800, it was deemed expedient by the said assembly that in pursuance of the Act of Union lately passed in this kingdom by which said borough will cease to return members to serve in Parliament, a memorial should be presented to the Commissioners appointed to investigate the claims of such boroughs; and which memorial—*Sheweth*: That in or before the year 1613 a free borough was made and constituted by the name of the Borough of Athy, consisting of a sovereign, bailiffs, and free burgesses, who had power to elect and return two fit and proper persons to sit as members in the Parliament of this Kingdom. That King James I., by his Letters Patent, dated 10th of May, in the 11th year of his reign, reciting that pursuant to his Letters signed, and under his seal of office, on the 26th day of Sept., in the 10th year of his reign, and also to other Letters signed and sealed on the 3rd of March, in the 6th year of his reign, did ordain and declare that the village of Athy, in said County of Kildare, and all the lands, tenements, waters, rivulets, &c., &c., lying or being within the space of half a mile in a direct line from each side of the White Castle\* in the village aforesaid, to be measured for the time to come, may, and for ever should, be one entire and free Borough of itself, by the name of the Borough of Athy, and within the said Borough there shall be one Corporation and Political body, consisting of one sovereign, two bailiffs, twelve free burgesses and a Community to them and successors in fee and for ever, and also the sovereign, bailiffs, and free burgesses of the said Borough and their successors for ever, have a full power and authority of choosing, sending, and returning two discreet and proper and fit persons to serve and attend in every Parliament in the Kingdom of Ireland for the future to be held, and that such men so elected, sent and returned, should have full power and authority to manage and consult of those things and matters which should be there exposed and declared to them and others, and to give their votes in all matters to be transacted and performed fully and freely as any other burgers of any other ancient borough in said Kingdom of Ireland and England in Parliament there have been accustomed to do. By the said Grant, a direction is given to the sheriffs, officers, and ministers of said County of Kildare for the time being to whom Writs of Election for Members of Parliament within said County Kildare, shall issue his Precept to the sovereign, bailiffs, and free burgesses of the said Borough for the time being to elect and return two burgesses according to the form and effect of the said Writ or Writs and the said Patent. By the said Patent the sovereign and bailiffs are to be chosen annually, and to continue in office for one year. Your Memorialists beg leave to refer to the said Grant or Charter enrolled in the Rolls of his Majesty's High Court of Chancery, and to the attested copy thereof. That your Memorialists and their predecessors have, pursuant to the powers so given and granted to them, constantly and uniformly from time to time returned two fit and proper persons to represent said Borough in Parliament, which appears from the Journals of the Right Hon. the House of Commons. Your Memorialists, therefore, pray your Honors to take their and their successors' case into consideration, and grant them the allowance pursuant to the said Act, and that the same may be handed and paid over to his Grace the Duke of Leinster, for whom your Memorialists consider themselves trustees.—(Signed by *A. Weldon*, *Sovereign*, and ten other members of the Corporation.)

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\* Now corrupted into “White's Castle.”

We find Athy represented in Parliament as early as the second year of Elizabeth, 1560, and again in 1613. On the 17th October, 1741, James, Lord Offaly of Carton, being then only nineteen years of age, was returned to Parliament for Athy. He sat in the House of Commons until he succeeded to the earldom in 1744. In 1783 Lord Edward Fitzgerald was elected M.P. for Athy. A Court of Record was held at Athy until 1827, for determining pleas to any amount arising within the borough and its liberties, which extended half a mile in every direction from the White Castle. The town and castle of Athy were the theatre of some of the military events of the seventeenth century. In 1642 the Earl of Ormonde arrived here with 3000 foot and 500 horse, and sent out parties to relieve the neighbouring garrisons of Carlow, Maryborough, Ballinakill, Bert, Clogrennan, and Ballyadams. In 1648, O'Neill and Preston, quondam companions-in-arms, were confronting each other as implacable enemies at the head of their respective armies. O'Neill's troops held possession of Athy, Rheban, and other adjoining strongholds, from which Preston set himself to dislodge them, whilst O'Neill, with the main body of his forces, was engaged in Ulster. Four companies of the Ulster troops, under O'Hagan, Con O'Neill, M'Kenna, and O'Mellan, garrisoned the Castle and the Dominican Monastery when Preston sat down before the town. No one knew better than he that the place would never yield until resistance became utterly hopeless; he therefore lost no time in opening his battery against the Castle. His shot told with terrible effect, for after eighteen rounds the staircase was so damaged that the besieged could not use it. O'Hagan, however, contrived to remedy this disaster by means of ladders from storey to storey, and no sooner was a breach made in the walls than he filled it up with hides, wool, and straw. Whenever an opportunity presented itself the Ulstermen sallied out by a postern, and so harassed Preston's people that they had to betake themselves to the trenches for shelter. At length, seeing that he could not get the Castle, Preston shifted his position and levelled his guns against the Dominican Monastery which had been evacuated by Con O'Neill. Father Thomas Bermingham, the Prior, planted a large cross on the bell-tower, imagining that the holy symbol would induce Preston to spare the place. He was deceived, however; Preston battered down the belfry, and finally took the monastery by assault. Meantime, intelligence of these events reached O'Neill in Munster; he immediately sent reinforcements for the garrison of Athy. Advancing by rapid marches, he fell unexpectedly on a detach-

ment of Preston's troops, who held the only ford on the river between Rheban and the town. Putting these to flight, they crossed the Barrow and proceeded to regain possession of the monastery. The Leinster men made a stout resistance, but were literally hewn to pieces in the bawn, garden, and cloisters of the monastery. Those who escaped the swords of the Ulstermen were drowned in the Barrow. Preston, seeing that his case was desperate, retreated towards Carlow.—(*"Aphorismical Discovery," apud Rev. C. P. Mechan.*)

The south-east gateway of Athy was standing until lately. It was pulled down in 1860, being regarded as an obstruction to traffic. The immediate cause of its removal was an accident, resulting in the death of Mr. Trench of Kilmoroney, there, at the period named. It received its name of Preston's Gate, probably from the fact that Preston, the General of the Confederates, passed through it in 1648 on his retreat towards Carlow.

In 1650, on the approach of Hewson, the Catholics, under Lord Dillon, then in occupation of the castle, blew it up and retreated. In a despatch from Hewson to the Leader of the House of Commons, dated Ballysonan, March 3rd, 1650, given by Father D. Murphy in his *Cromwell in Ireland* (p. 284), he states:—"The enemy did also blow up the castle of Athy, where they had a strong garrison, and broke up the bridge."

#### DOMINICAN FRIARY.

A monastery of the Friars Preachers was founded at Athy in the year 1253, by the families of the Boisles and Wogans, regarding whom, as connected with the County of Kildare, a brief account will be interesting to our members. The Wogans were of Welsh extraction, and settled in Ireland towards the close of the thirteenth century. John Wogan, Knt., was Justiciary of Ireland from 1295 to 1308, and again, from 1310 to 1312. Richard Wogan was appointed Lord High Chancellor of Ireland by King Henry VI., in 1444. Colonel Wogan, a member of this family, saved the King's life in the battle of Nazeby. Young Charles Wogan, afterwards Sir Charles, a near kinsman of the Colonel Wogan just mentioned, and nephew to Richard Talbot, Duke of Tyrconnell, was a Roman patrician and senator, and colonel in the Spanish army. It is related of him that "with 1400 men he held out for four hours against 20,000, losing half his soldiers, and thus secured a victory and conquest for the Prince he served." His greatest exploit,

however, was his rescuing from prison the Princess Clementina Sobieski, the fiancée of his master, Prince James Stuart which, as it has been already referred to by Canon Sherlock in his Paper on Clane, may be here disposed of briefly. The marriage of Clementina had, early in 1718, been negotiated for the Prince by his devoted adherent, Sir Charles Wogan, of Rathcoffy, in the County of Kildare. Wogan had been engaged in the unsuccessful Jacobite movement in Scotland, in 1715, was taken prisoner at Preston and confined in the Tower of London, where he was placed in irons, and his trial and execution were expected to follow. With the assistance, however, of a few fellow-prisoners, who took the guard by surprise, he regained his liberty, evaded pursuit, and reached France in safety. Through the influence of England all efforts to obtain the release of the Princess Clementina were frustrated. The task of liberating her was voluntarily undertaken by Sir Charles Wogan with the approbation of her father and her affianced husband, both of whom gave him their authorization as well as letters, desiring the Princess to place implicit confidence in him. By the Imperial orders the safe custody of the Princess and her mother was entrusted to the general in command of the Tyrol, who consequently maintained a continuous military guard at their residence. The Privy Councillors of Innsbruck were also charged with the safe keeping of the ladies, amongst whose domestics, for further security, they introduced secret agents. For this perilous enterprise Wogan obtained the co-operation of his relatives, Major Richard Gaydon, Captain Lucas O'Toole, and Captain John Misset of the Irish Regiment of Dillon, then on the Continent. After various difficulties the release of the Princess was, in April, 1719, effected by Wogan at midnight, in the midst of one of the most severe snowstorms and tempests ever known in the Tyrol. Notwithstanding innumerable obstacles Wogan, with the Princess and his companions, succeeded in reaching Italian territory, where they were in safety.—(Gilbert). "The marriage," writes Father Hogan, S. J., "took place in the same year at Fiascone, at which Pope Clement XI., godfather to the Princess, officiated." All Europe was in admiration of the exploit, and the Duke of Wharton complimented Sir Charles Wogan upon it thus—

" Great in your verse as on the martial scene,  
Whose essay was to free a captive Queen."

Many documents, Mr. Gilbert observes, connected with the Princess Clementina Sobieski and her escape are extant among

the Imperial archives at Vienna and Innspruck. In recognition of their services on this occasion a diploma of citizenship of Rome was conferred on Wogan and his three companions. This honour, it is stated, had not been for many centuries conferred on any foreigner in Italy. Sir Charles Wogan was the author of productions in Latin, French, and English; and some letters passed between him and Dean Swift. A portrait of this celebrity is preserved at the residence of his relative, Mr. Henry Aylmer, of Painstown, Co. Kildare.

The Boisles or Boswells, the co-founders with the Wogans of the Dominican Monastery of Athy, were, as De Burgo relates, settled at Ballycorry, in the County of Wicklow.

In 1314, King Edward II. gave his consent to a grant, previously made to this monastery by John of Slane, of six acres of land adjoining the house for the purpose of enlarging the demesne.

In 1288, 1295, and 1305, Chapters of the order were held here.

In 1347, Philip Pereys was prior. He obtained the pardon of King Edward III. for all felonies and transgressions by him committed, on paying a fine of half-a-mark, and saying one hundred Masses for the benefit of his Majesty's soul. This fine was afterwards remitted on condition of his saying another hundred Masses for the soul of the King. The same year the Prior and other members of the community were indicted for taking by force a net with the fish therein, belonging to the Crouched Friars.

In 1541, the Friars Preachers of Athy surrendered their priory. It was granted, with the appurtenances thereunto belonging five years subsequently, to Martin Pelles, and also 6 acres in le More, near the Barrow; 12 acres and half a stang of land, and one acre of pasture of the great measure in Athy aforesaid; 11 acres of arable, 1 of pasture, and half a stang of pasture, 1 acre whereof is heath, in the town and fields of Ardreich; half an acre of pasture called the Island, on the Barrow, and two fishing-weirs on said river; 1 message, half an acre of arable, and 1 water-mill at Tulloghnorre; 1 acre of arable land, 2 of meadow, and 4 of pasture, great measure, in Molensgrange; to be held *in capite*, for ever, at the annual rent of 2s. 8d. Irish currency. An inquisition, taken the Thursday after the feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop, 34th year of Henry VIII., finds that the Prior, on the 30th of April, 31st of that King, was seized of a church and belfry, chapter-house, dormitory, hall, three chambers and a kitchen, a cemetery, garden and orchard, containing 1 acre; also 6 cottages, 16 acres of arable of great

measure, and a water-mill in Clokenry, annual value besides reprises, 32s.

In an inquisition taken the 6th September, 1621, it is set forth that Gerald Fitzgerald, late Earl of Kildare, granted to a certain Robert Lalor of Maynooth, the Monastery or precincts of the Abbey of St. Dominick, and 60 acres belonging to the same, in Athy, and also the ancient vill of Percivalstown, near Athy. In 1648, during the temporary revival of this Monastery, Thomas Bermingham was Prior.

Edmund Dempsey, Catholic Bishop of Leighlin from 1642 to 1661, was a member of this community. He died an exile at St. Mary's, Finisterre, in Galicia, about the year 1661, and was interred there. He was the son of Terence Dempsey, Viscount Clamaleire, and had been Provincial of the Dominican Order in Ireland.

Father Richard Oveton, Superior of this Monastery, was beheaded at Drogheda in 1649. "Being taken prisoner," we are told, in the Acts of the Order, "anno, 1650, with two other Dominican Fathers, in Drogheda, after its capitulation, and led to execution in presence of the whole Cromwellian army, they poured forth their souls in prayer, and so bravely met death." In 1756, Fathers Dominic Dillon and Thomas Cummins, natives of this district, and who had been educated in the college of SS. Sixtus and Clement, at Rome, represented the Dominican community in Athy. The Dominican Monastery stood on the east side of the Barrow, its precincts extending, according to local tradition, from the river to the corner of the street leading to where Preston's Gate formerly stood, and from thence to the rear of the gardens of the present house called the Abbey.

#### THE CROUCHED FRIARY.\*

A Priory of the Canons Regular of the Holy Cross, or Crouched Friars, as they were sometimes called, from the embroidered cross which they wore on their habit, was founded at Athy in 1253, the same year as that in which the Dominican House was founded there, under the invocation of St. John or St. Thomas. The founder was Richard of St. Michael, Lord of Rheban. He was a Palatine Baron or Banneret, created by the Count Palatine of Kildare. According to Sir John Davies, there were, in King John's time, in Leinster, five Counts

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\* See also Mr. Hannon's Paper, p. 113.



Palatine exercising royal powers. They were the five sons-in-law of William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, who, himself, had Palatine jurisdiction over the entire province.

In 1347 John was Prior. In that year John, the Prior of St. Thomas; Thomas, the chaplain; William Fitz Thomas, baker; Laurence, cook; and Friar Maurice of Athy, were indicted for coming by night to the fishing-weir belonging to the Dominicans, and there and then, by force of arms, did take away a net with the fish therein, the property of the said Friary, to their loss and damage of upwards of 100 shillings.

In 1390 Robert was Prior. In Patent Rolls, 10th December, 13th year of the reign of Richard II., we find the King committing to Robert, Prior of St. Thomas the Apostle, at Athy, the custody of two fishing-weirs, the property of the Prior and Community, in the waters of the Barrow near Athy.

In 1517 James was Prior. By an Inquisition held at Kildare, 1st of Elizabeth, it appeared that on the 20th of August, 8th of Henry VIII., James, Prior of St. Thomas of Athy, with the consent of the Community, granted to Edmund Harrold, chaplain, and his heirs, one castle, one messuage, and an orchard and garden lying to the west of the bridge of Athy, for the service of Gerald, Earl of Kildare, and his heirs.

In 1531 the House paid 13s. 4*l.* proxies to the Archbishop of Dublin.

At the Dissolution of Monasteries this Priory was granted, with its appurtenances, to Anthony Power. In 1603 the King directed Sir George Carey to give a lease in reversion for fifty years to John King and John Bingley of, *inter alia*, the Abbey of St. John's, of Athy. Sir Arthur Chichester, in 1607, wrote to Salisbury soliciting for John King and John Bingley the fee-farm of many Abbey lands, amongst others, of the lands of St. John's Hospital of Athy. Both, Sir A. Chichester said, were ancient territory of the kingdom. The lands of St. John's Hospital, having reverted to the Crown, were again granted by Act of Parliament, 17th and 18th Charles II., to one of the King family—namely, to Mary King, daughter of Sir Robert King, and wife of Sir William Meredith, of Greenhills, County of Kildare, and afterwards of Lord Denbigh.

An Inquisition taken the Monday after the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, fifth year of Edward VI., finds that the rectory of Trecalyne, *alias* Tecaline, annual value £4 6s. 8*d.*, and the rectory of Serobo, annual value, besides reprises, £9, were appropriated to the Prior of this House. Tecaline, or Tecolm, *i. e.* "The House of Colum," is located near Corbally, in the Queen's County. The Saint who gave its name to this place

was most probably St. Colman of Oughaval, near Stradbally. He was of the family of the O'Mores of Leix and a disciple of St. Columba, under whom he spent some years at Iona. Scrobo is probably Straboe, an ancient parochial district, near Shaen, in the Queen's County also.

By an Inquisition taken at Maryborough, 14th of July, 1622, Robert Bowen was found seized of the juspatronatus of the parochial churches of Fontstown, *alias* Ballintubrid, and Kilmohude (Kilmeade), and of the townland of Rossbrannagh, containing five acres, besides mountain and bog, and one water-mill, parcel of the possessions of the Religious House of St. John's, Athy.

The precincts of this monastery included all that part of the town called St. John's and St. John's-lane, and the domain consisted of the island in the river and the adjacent fields as far as the present barracks. Some portion of the walls now enclosing the burial-ground at St. John's are supposed to belong to the original building.

*THE ROUND TOWERS OF THE CO. KILDARE :  
THEIR ORIGIN AND USE.\**

By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A.

At the present time there are five round towers, in a more or less perfect state, standing in this county—at Castledermot, Old Kileullen, Oughterard, Kildare, and Taghadoo—each of which will be described in turn. But before doing that it will be necessary to describe their general appearance and explain their origin and use; in doing so most of the following information is taken from two very valuable sources—one is Miss Margaret Stokes's "Early Christian Architecture," where the subject is fully discussed, and the other is George Petrie's "Round Towers of Ireland," the Essay which took the Royal Irish Academy's Gold Medal and Prize, offered in 1833 for the best explanation as to the original object of the round towers, and this work is still the highest authority on the subject.

In appearance the round tower is a slightly tapering, high, circular tower, which from its peculiarity and frequency in Ireland has become one of her typical emblems. When perfect (which none of those in this county are) the summit is capped by a steep conical stone roof (called in Irish "beanchobhar"), as, for instance, the round tower of Clondalkin, which is the nearest perfect specimen. Its position is almost invariably about 20 feet from the north-west end of the old church, and so placed as to command its entrance; it is never found away from a Christian burial-ground; its doorway is, with only a few early exceptions, from 8 to 15 feet above the level of the ground; the base is solid in some and hollow in others; the foundations are always built on one or more plinths, or projecting courses of stones, step-fashion; the interior is divided into from 4 to 8 storeys, the wooden floors of which were supported either on a projecting ledge of stones, on brackets, by means of joists; each floor, except the top and bottom, is lighted by a single narrow window either square, round, or triangular-headed, invariably placed within a couple of feet of the floor; the floor on the door level has no window, but the top one is lit by from 2 to 8 windows.

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\* Read, January 27, 1892.

The average height of these towers (when perfect) is from 90 to 120 feet; the thickness of the walls at the base from 3 to 5 feet; the internal diameter 7 to 9 feet, and the external circumference about 50 feet.

As mentioned above, the walls taper, and so decrease in thickness towards the top; the masonry varies greatly: in some of the round towers the stones are well cut and carefully fitted, in others the work is rough, badly jointed, and the stones are laid in irregular courses; in a few exceptional towers both ashlar and rubble work will be found, the one above the other, and *vice versa*.

Petrie in his book quotes a passage from an ancient Irish manuscript, a portion of a commentary on the old Irish or Brehon Law, now to be seen in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, in which it is shown that a regulated price (payable in cattle) was laid down for the erection of the stone church, and its cloicheach or belfry, and also that the height of the belfry or round tower was to be in a certain proportion with the stone church, and this was calculated in the following manner:—The perimeter, that is the external measurement of the four walls of the church, was taken; from this the external circumference of the proposed base of the round tower was subtracted, and the figure left fixed the height of the round tower; thus, suppose the perimeter of the original church was 184 feet and the circumference of the round tower 52 feet, 52 from 184 leaves 132, which would be the height for the round tower in feet. In the Irish Annals there is no mention of the round towers before the middle of the tenth century, after which, when any reference is made to them they are always styled “cloicheacha,” or belfries.

The use and origin of the round towers, until Petrie's researches conclusively proved them to be of Christian origin, was an inexplicable puzzle to the antiquarians of the last century, and many were the absurd theories given by them as to their object, such as that they were erected to represent a pagan object of worship; that they were for fire-worship; that they were built by the Danes; that they were anchorite towers, used after an example set by St. Simeon, a native of Cilicia, in the fourth century, called the Stylite; that they were sepulchral monuments, &c. And even at the present day many are still unaware that they were ecclesiastical keeps built for the purpose of affording shelter to the clergy, and a place of safety for the valuable church property, such as shrines, relics, bells, and plate, during times of invasion and danger; while at the same time they acted as watch-towers, as whether they were situated

on a hill like Oughterard, or were down in a hollow like the one at Glendalough, their height enabled a man on the look-out at the top to get an extensive view round so as to give the alarm in time on the approach of a foe. In addition to the above purposes the round tower was used as a place of safety for housing the small square bells which were (and are still in some places) often looked upon with great reverence as having been blessed and consecrated by the patron saint of the district. It was only after the year 1200 that ecclesiastical bells were made of any great size, when they were probably hung at the top of the round towers, a purpose to which that of Castledermot is at present put. The name "cloitreach," or bell-house, which is always used in the Annals, must have had some such origin.

Some proof that the round towers were erected for Christian purposes is shown in the fact of their always being found in a Christian burial-ground. The round tower of Kilkenny is remarkable for being out of the perpendicular, and this was discovered on excavations inside the base being made in 1847, to be caused by the foundations being built over a group of skeletons, some portions of which extended beyond the circle of the building, and consequently on that side the foundation sank a little. The skeletons were lying east and west (their feet to the east), and there is direct proof that the pagan Irish on their conversion to Christianity changed their mode of burial, and deposited their dead with the face to the east. The Kilmacduach tower, Co. Galway, leans greatly for the same reason. Again, where any remains of the church coeval with the tower still exist the masonry of the two will be found to correspond, and the erection of at least two of the round towers are mentioned in the Irish Annals, viz. that of Clonmaenois (O'Rourke's Tower) in A.D. 1124, and that of Annaghdown in 1238.

Proofs of their defensive character is shown in the height of their doorway above the ground and of traces of double doors in some of them: while the following entries in the Irish Annals show how far they were resorted to for safety at the time of an attack:—

- 948 The Cloitreach of Slaine was burned by the foreigners (*i. e.* the Danes), with its full of relics and distinguished persons, together with Caeineachair, Lector of Slaine, and the Crozier of the Patron Saint, and a bell which was the best of bells.
- 1020 Armagh was burned; and the Cloitreach, with its bells.
- 1097 The Cloitreach of Monasterboice, with its books and many treasures, was burned.
- 1171 The Cloitreach of Tullyard was burned by Tiernan O'Rourke, with its full of people in it.

The date of the erection of the round towers has been fixed between the ninth and the thirteenth centuries. It was in the ninth century that the Danes commenced their hostile visits to the Irish shores in search of plunder; at first they ravaged the coast and islands, then later on they returned in larger numbers, and sailing up the more important rivers they robbed the churches along their banks, and eventually moored their fleets on the large inland loughs from whence they sacked the country round in all directions. Their method of attack was to make unexpected and rapid onslaughts on the religious establishments, killing the clergy who opposed them, burning the churches, and carrying off everything worth taking before the inhabitants had time to muster in sufficient force to drive them off. The result was that a custom, then in vogue on the Continent, was introduced into Ireland either through Irish missionaries who had been abroad, or by means of foreign scholars studying in Irish monasteries. This custom was the erection of the round towers. On the restoration of the church and its adjoining building recently burned down by the Danes, the round tower was also built, in order to enable the clergy to retire into a place of safety, taking with them the shrines, manuscripts, croziers, bells, and relics, until any threatened attack had passed over.

In Miss Stokes's book is a very instructive map of Ireland, showing the course of the dated Danish incursions of the ninth century, and giving the names of the places known to have been attacked by them; in addition to that the sites of all round towers existing, or known to have existed, are marked down, and it is very remarkable how clearly the theory of the round towers being built for defensive purposes is here illustrated. They are to be seen on this map, principally along the north-east coast, and in groups in the valleys of the rivers Shannon, Boyne, and Liffey, as well as in regular lines along the coast from Galway to the Shannon, and from Cape Clear to Waterford.

Lord Dunraven, in Vol. 11. of his "Notes on Irish Architecture," traces the round tower through France to Italy, where it probably had an eastern origin. These foreign round towers, some of which still exist, bear a very striking resemblance to the Irish ones; they are high, slender, and circular, have pointed roofs, and are occasionally built of brick. That this type of tower was at an early date in use on the Continent is apparent from the following passage in the life of St. Tenenan of Brittany, by Albert Legrand. After describing the erection of the churches of La Forêt and Ploabennec, and

the settlement in the forest, as well as the ravages and burning of the churches in the Leonnais by the barbarians, his biographer proceeds, says Miss Stokes, thus :—

He exhorted the people to penitence and amendment of life ; and, providing for their defence and preservation, he appointed a chief man of their troop as their captain, recommending him to erect a little Round Tower near the church of Ploabennee, wherein to deposit the silver-plate and treasure of the same church, and protect them against the sacrilegious hands of the barbarians, should they wish to pillage the same church. This he accordingly did. Meanwhile the barbarians approached, and St. Tenenan hastily carried the sacred vessels into the Tower, wherein the captain entered, and resolved to defend it at the cost of his blood.

This passage is important, as bearing both on the origin and use of these towers, suggesting that the type reached Ireland through Brittany, and proving these buildings to be ecclesiastical keeps. This round tower of Ploabennee was erected in the seventh century for the same purpose as two centuries later the cloittheacha were erected in Ireland.

Miss Stokes goes on to give a list of those towers closely resembling the home ones, which are, or were, to be found out of Ireland, they are as follows :—

The eleven Round Towers of Ravenna, of which six still remain.

The Towers of San Nicolo at Pisa ; San Paternian at Venice ; Scheness in Switzerland ; St. Thomas in Strasburg ; Gernrode in the Hartz, one at St. Germain des Prés ; another at Worms in Hesse Darmstadt ; and two at Notre Dame de Maestricht in Belgium.

In Scotland they are to be found too : one at Brechin in Forfarshire ; one at St. Bridget's church, Abernethy, Perthshire ; one at St. Magnus, Egilsha ; and two formerly stood in Deerness, in the Orkneys ; one each at St. Lawrence's church in West Burra, at St. Magnus's, at Tingwall, and at Ireland Head, all in the Shetland Islands ; while one has been described in Stremoe, one of the Faroe Islands ; and lastly, one at St. Patrick's church, Isle of Man. These Round Towers, in and about Scotland, are in all probability the work of Irish missionaries, who introduced them after the type reached Ireland.

[See Summary, next page.

## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY OF THE FIVE ROUND TOWERS.

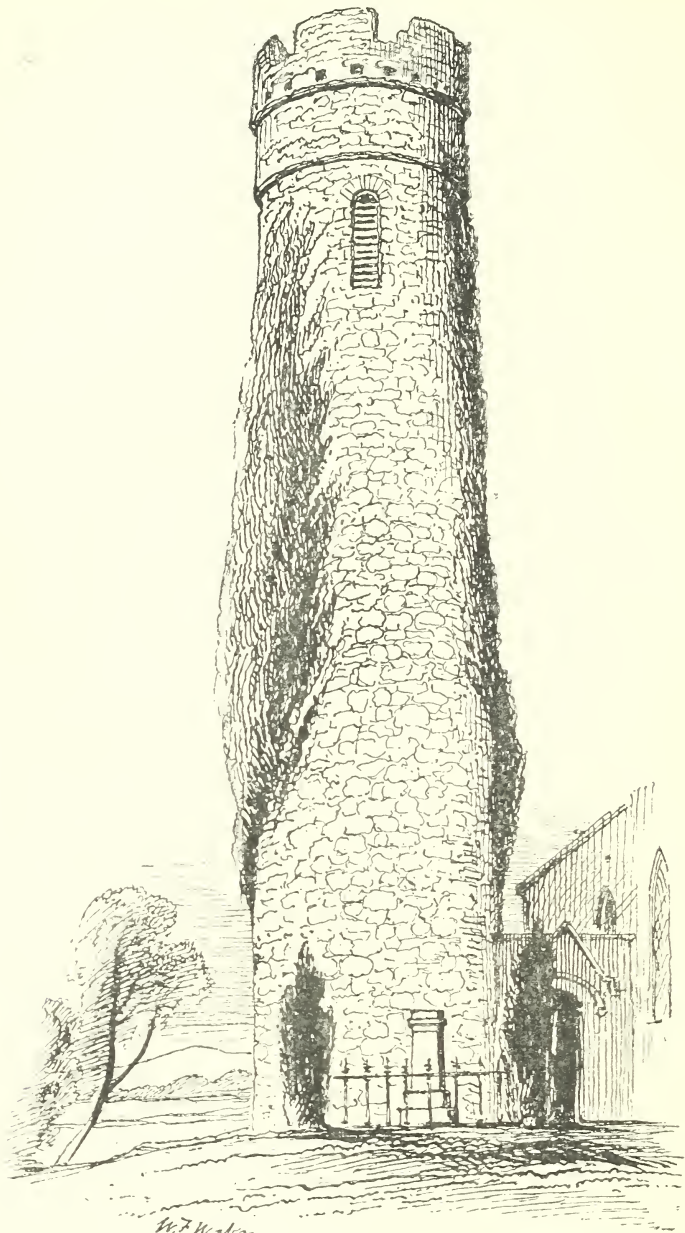
NAME.	Condition.	Height.	External Circumference.	Internal Diameter.	Thickness of Wall at Door.	DOORWAY.			WINDOWS.	
						Shape of Head.	Height above the ground.	Measurements. Hth. Wdth. ft. in. ft. in.	Number of Upper.	Shape of the Intermediate
OLD KILCULLEN,	Fair.	30 or 40 ft.	47 ft.	—	$3\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	Round, formed out of 3 stones. Faces N.E.	$6\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	ft. in. ft. in. 5 8 2 0	Formerly four, square-headed.	Square.
OUGHTERARD,	Bad.	34 ft.	47 ft.	—	3 ft.	Round, formed out of 3 stones. Faces E.	$7\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	4 9 2 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	Round, but square inside.
TAGHADOE,	Good.	65 ft.	51 ft.	9 ft.	3 ft. 4 in.	Round, formed out of 3 stones. Faces S.E. It has a band running round externally.	$12\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	5 0 2 0	None, but it has 6 putlock holes.	Square.
CASTLEDERMOT,*	Very good.	66 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	—	8 ft.	3 ft. 6 in.	Square. Faces S.	2 ft.	7 6 2 4	Four, round-headed.	Square.
KILDARE,†	Very good.	105 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	53 $\frac{1}{2}$ ft.	Between 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ and 9 ft.	$4\frac{1}{2}$ ft., though at the first storey it is 4 ft. 6 in.	Round, having recessed arches. Faces S.E.	14 ft.	Varies.	Five, round-headed.	Triangular, . . . . .

\* This Tower is capped by English battlements.

† This Tower is capped by Irish battlements.







W.F. Wakeman  
1892.

ROUND TOWER OF CASTLEDERMOT.

## THE ROUND TOWER OF CASTLEDERMOT.

Castledermot is situated on the River Lerr, eight miles to the south-east of Athy, in the southern extremity of the county. Its ancient name was Disert Diarmada, which in time became corrupted to Tristle Diarmada, both of which mean St. Diarmaid's Hermitage. The name underwent a third change shortly after the Norman invasion of Ireland, which took place in 1170, when it became to be called Castledermot, probably from the castle built there in 1182 by Hugh de Lacy, though old histories still for long after often used the former names; the ancient name of the district round was Hy Muireadhaigh, or Omurethy, which belonged to the Clan O'Toole. Disert Diarmada was the name given to the place in the ninth century from a St. Diermaid, grandson of Aedh Roin, King of Ulster, who founded a monastery there in or about the year 800. His death is thus noticed in the "Annals of the Four Masters":—"The age of Christ 823, Diarmaid, grandson of Aedh Roin, who was an anchorite, and a distinguished doctor, died." The "Martyrology of Donegal" records his festival on the 21st of June, as follows:—"Diarmaid, grandson of Aedh Roin, Bishop of Disert Diarmada, in Leinster. He is of the race of Fiatach Finn, monarch of Erin."

Two more extracts will be given from the "Annals," one is:—

The age of Christ 841. The Plundering of Disert Diarmada by the Foreigners of Cael-Uisce (*i. e.* "the Narrow-Water," in the Co. Down).

And the other:—

The age of Christ 919. Cairbre, son of Fearadhach, head of the piety of Leinster, successor of Diarmaid, grandson of Aedh Roin, airchinneach of Tigh-Mochua (Timahoe, Queen's County), and an anchorite, died on March 6th (Marty. of Donegal), after a good life, at a very advanced age.

It is to this Abbot Cairbre, or Carpreus, that tradition assigns the erection of the round tower of Castledermot.

The round tower stands on the north side of the church, to which it is attached by an ancient narrow and high passage, eight feet in length. The masonry consists of roundish granite

boulders just as they were picked up or dug up from the land. The spaces between them are filled up with spawlds of common quarry stones embedded in mortar. As the doorway is all but level with the ground the base is hollow. The original conical stone roof is gone, and the tower is now topped by an embrasured parapet, below which are two offsetts.

The height of the tower from the top of the parapet to the level of the ground (which is 20 inches above the plinth) is  $66\frac{1}{2}$  feet; the walls at the base are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, and the internal diameter is 8 feet. It is impossible to take the external circumference as, in addition to the passage already mentioned, there is a very thick stem of ivy on the east side which, even in a print of 1792, is shown as covering the tower, though of recent years a good portion has been stripped off to show the mason work.

The doorway is a couple of steps above the ground level;\* it is square-headed; the lintels, jambs, and sill are all of large dressed blocks of granite; it faces the south, and has inclined sides. Both Lord Dunraven's grand work on "Irish Architecture," and Miss Stokes's "Early Christian Architecture" make a great error in stating that "the doorway of the round tower does not correspond with the masonry of the rest of the building, as it is arched and moulded." They were probably led astray by Seward's "Topographia Hibernica," which says it is semicircular and adorned with a chevron moulding, confusing it up with the ancient Romanesque western doorway of the former church which still stands *in situ* a short distance away. The measurements are as follows:—In height 7 feet 6 inches; in width at the top 1 foot 10 inches, at the bottom 2 feet 4 inches; in depth 3 feet 6 inches. From the top of the sill to the plinth is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet; there are no traces of door-hangings or bolt sockets. A portion of the jambs on either side have been hacked away, tradition says it was done by order of a former parson to enable him to admit his pony, which was stabled inside, but the more likely reason was to allow the bell to be passed in when it was hung in the top storey during the last century. This bell bears the following inscription:—

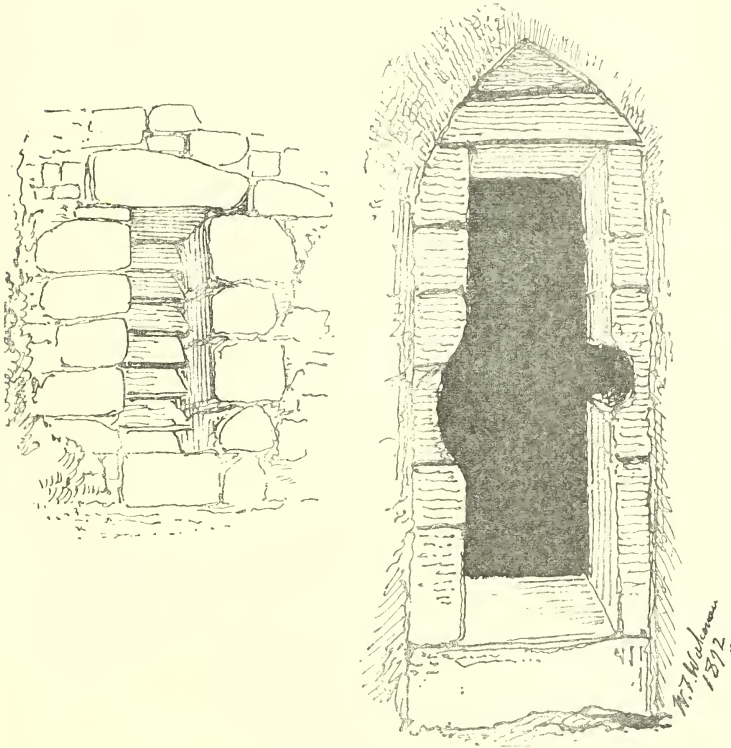
THE : UNION : OF : CASTLEDERMOT : C : L : FOUNDER : 1735

Six feet above the lintel of the door springs a flat-arched

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\* The doorway of the round tower on Scattery Island, in the mouth of the river Shannon, is also on the ground level; also Lusk and Swords, Co. Dublin.

stone-floor, built of flattish granite boulders; the entrance through it was on one side nearly over the square-headed door below: it too has suffered, as some of the granite boulders have been torn out, and are lying on the floor. Like the sides of the doorway it was also probably enlarged for the passage of the bell. A like stone floor is to be found over the entrance of the round tower of Meelick, county Mayo (but unlike that of Castle-



EXTERNAL VIEW OF THE DOORWAY, AND A WINDOW, IN THE  
ROUND TOWER OF CASTLEDERMOT.

dermot it rests on an off-set). At the round tower of Keneith, county Cork, a peculiarly constructed slate-flag floor exists at the door level, with a well-hole in the centre, leading into the hollow base; and the round tower on Scatterry Island has another stone floor above the entrance. A noticeable peculiarity of the stone floor in the Castledermot round tower is that

it has a couple of holes, about eight inches square, close to one another, and near the aperture, which go clean through the floor; they strike one as being intended for bell-ropes, but do not look of recent make. Both the floor and the pointed arch of the passage still bear traces in the mortar of the impression of the wattle basketwork on which they were built. The stone floor is probably not coeval with the erection of the round tower, but an addition of the eleventh or twelfth century, when the passage was also probably built. Five modern lofts and ladders enable one to reach the roof, which is of lead, and flat. The stone floor is not made use of, as the ladder from the floor below goes straight through the aperture to the loft above. There are no traces of any upper original floor supports, so these floors must have been fixed by means of joists, the holes for which are probably now built up and indiscernible. There are four large windows to the top storey, facing the cardinal points; they are round-headed, the arch being formed of wedges of green flag quarry-stone, and so may be of more recent date than the rest of the tower, as they are not in keeping with the doorway or the intermediate windows. Besides which the level of the sill is only a short distance above the lintel of the little south-east window below, as is shown in the sketch. Their jambs are of roughly-dressed granite boulders of small size. They measure—in height 6 feet 3 inches; in width 2 feet; in depth 3 feet. There appear to be only two small intervening windows, both of which are square-headed. The upper one is now built up on the inside, but as far as one can make out it was 2 feet 3 inches in height, and 1 foot 2 inches in width; it faces the south-east. The lower window faces the south and measures internally—in height 1 foot 10 inches; in width at the top  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, at the bottom 11 inches; in depth 3 feet 2 inches. The sides of both incline, and lintel, jambs, and sill are all of dressed granite. At the base there is a narrow loop hole facing the west, but it has every appearance of having been broken through in recent times.

Views of the round tower are to be found in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland," Vol. II.; Seward's "Topographia Hibernica," which is the same plate as is given in the "Anthologia Hibernica Magazine" for 1793, Vol. II. The tower is represented with a peaked roof bearing a weather-cock, within the parapet, and covered with ivy; also in Vol. III. of Thomas Cromwell's "Excursions in Ireland."

## THE ROUND TOWER OF OLD KILCULLEN.

Kilcullen lies near the Hill of Knockaulin, famous in ancient history, and seven miles to the south-east of Kildare. It is generally called Old Kilcullen to distinguish it from Kilcullen Bridge, which sprang into existence in the fourteenth century owing to the building of the bridge there over the Liffey, by Maurice Jakis, in the year 1319. From this event may be dated the gradual decline of Kilcullen, which before that was an important walled town with seven gates.

The name means, according to Joyce,\* "The Church of the Holly." The old name of the hill it is on is said to have been "Slievecullen," from the abundance of that kind of tree in the woods which covered it long ago. Archdall, in his "Monasticon Hibernicum," says that a monastery was founded here at a very early date by St. Patrick, who appointed St. Issernin its first bishop. The latter's death took place in the year 469. "Magh Life" was the ancient name of the district it is situated in.

From the "Annals of the Four Masters" the two extracts given below are taken:—

The age of Christ 936. Aulaf, son of Godfrey, lord of the foreigners of Dublin (*i. e.* the Danes), plundered Cill Cuilinn, and carried off ten hundred prisoners from thence.

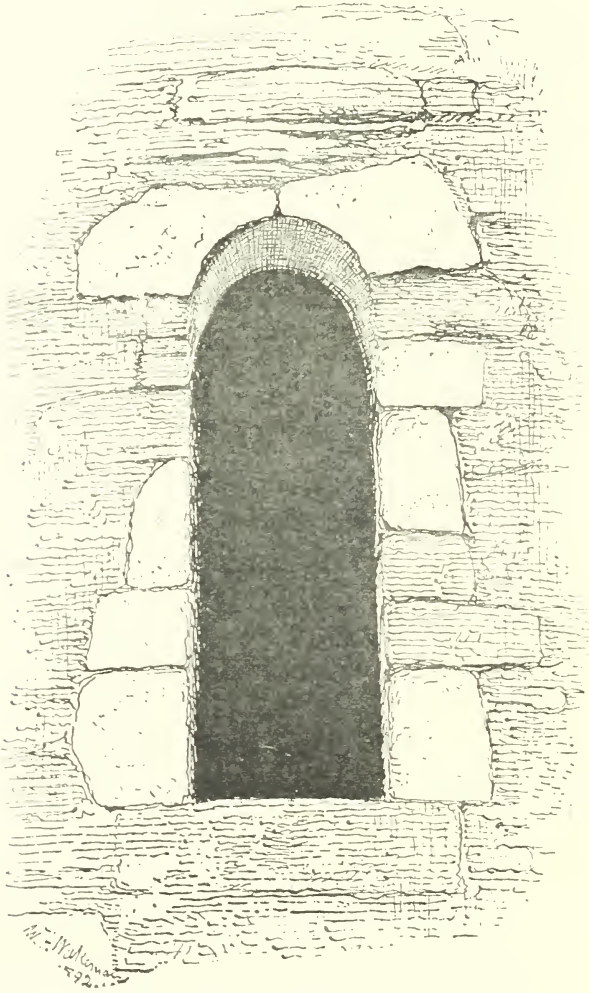
The age of Christ 944. The plundering of Cill Cuilinn by the foreigners, *i. e.* by Aulaf Cuaran (the stooped) and his followers.

These Danish attacks probably brought about the erection of the round tower, most of which still remains standing. From its high position on the summit of Kilcullen Hill it can be seen from a long distance off; it is said to be between 30 and 40 feet in height. It is built of that bad quality of limestone known as "green flag," which abounds in the neighbouring quarries; the stones vary greatly in size, and are not laid in courses. The top of the tower is of an even height all round, except for one pillar of masonry on the west side, one side of which is quite straight, and looks like the jamb of a large window. According to a description of this tower given in 1782 by a keen antiquarian named Austin Cooper,

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\* *Vide* Vol. I. of "Irish Names of Places explained."

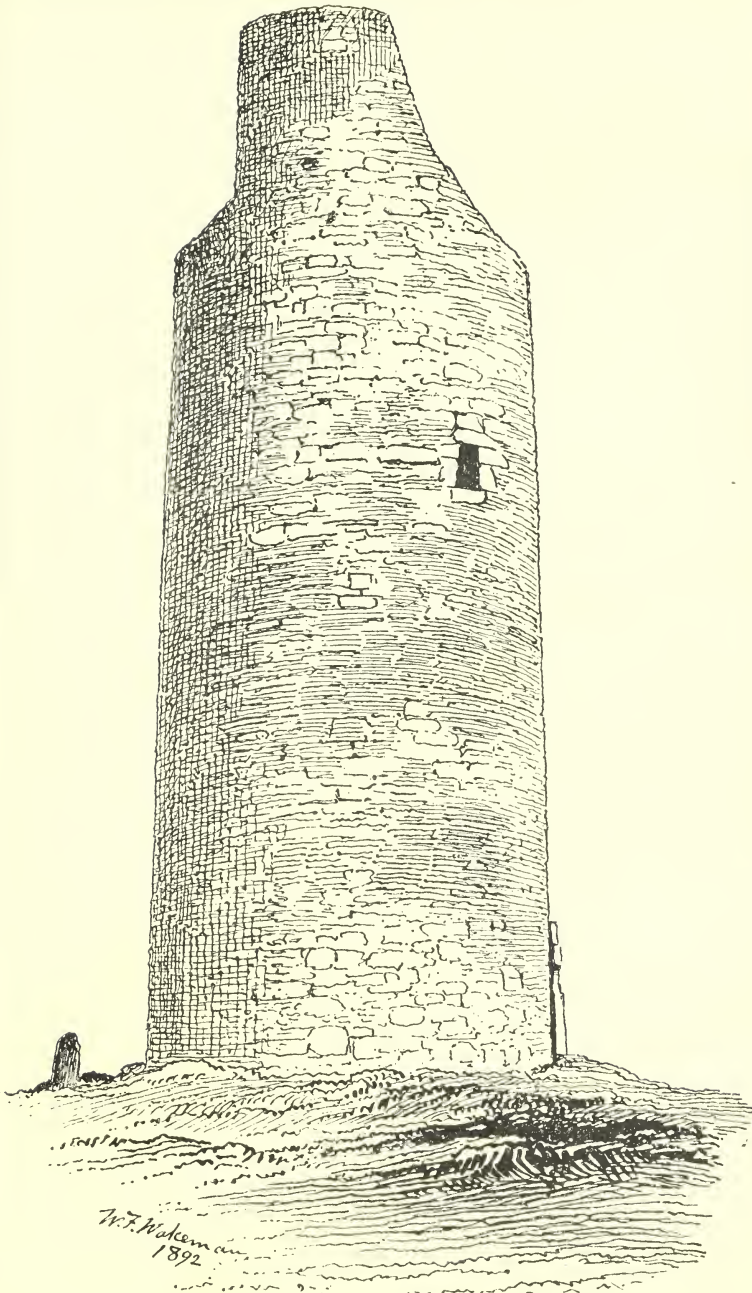
who made a sketching tour in the neighbourhood during that year, the round tower had then the remains of four upper windows, though much destroyed, and its height he said was not more than 40 or 50 feet, so that the tower could never



DOORWAY OF THE OLD KILCULLEN ROUND TOWER.

have been a high one; and judging from his sketch of it this remaining pillar of masonry must be portion of one of the four upper windows. The top of the tower is said to have suffered





ROUND TOWER OF OLD KILCULLEN.



a good deal in '98, when the rebels so successfully held the churchyard against the forces under a Captain Erskine on the 24th of May.

The external circumference of the tower, taken close to the ground, is 47 feet; the butt is hollow, and there are visible inside three ledges on which the floors rested; one of the ledges is just below the door level, and the upper one a little below the present summit of the tower, lighted as it were by the former four big windows.

The doorway faces the north-east, and is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the present level of the ground, while the level inside is nearly 18 inches lower still. The doorway is round-headed, the arch being formed out of two granite stones; the jambs are also mostly of granite, but the sill is a piece of limestone; the blocks of granite used are not large; for instance it takes four depths of granite stones (each shaped like the exterior ones) to make the entire arching head, the wall being  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick. There is no sign of any kind of ornament on the external face of the doorway; on the inside (on the right-hand side looking outwards) there is a square socket hole, in which the upper support on which the door hung was fixed; the lower one is not now visible; some of the stones too are slightly grooved to enable the door to fit closely. The measurements are as follows:—In height 5 feet 8 inches; in width at the spring of the arch 1 foot 9 inches, at the sill-stone 2 feet; in depth 3 feet 6 inches.

The second floor was lighted by a small square-headed window with inclined sides, much resembling the small window of the Castledermot round tower; the jambs are of granite, and the lintel and sill of green flag; it faces the south-west.

This tower, which was in a very ruinous state, was taken in hands by the Board of Works a few years ago and carefully repointed.

There is now no trace of the ruins of the old church with its beautiful Irish-Romanesque doorway, which was drawn by Petrie for Thomas Cromwell's "Excursions through Ireland" (*vide* Vol. III., p. 4, published in 1820). In Vol. II., at p. 27, of Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland," is given a picture of the round tower and church, drawn about 1792. According to it the upper windows appear square-headed, and the tower, though ruinous, seems to want the conical stone cap alone to make it perfect.

## THE ROUND TOWER OF OUGHTERARD.

The hill of Oughterard lies between Bishopscourt and Lyons, 5 miles to the north-east of Naas. It is 458 feet above the level of the sea.

The name means "The Upper Height."

On the summit of the hill is a churchyard, surrounded by a high stone wall, containing some ancient ruins, a large portion of which is used as a burial vault by the Ponsonby family, formerly of Bishopscourt. These church ruins are said to have been built in 1609, on the site of an ancient chantry connected with a nunnery founded by a St. Bridget in the 6th or 7th century. This St. Bridget was not the same as the famous St. Bridget of Kildare.

The only mention of Oughterard in the Annals of the Four Masters is in the year 1094. It is thus given :—

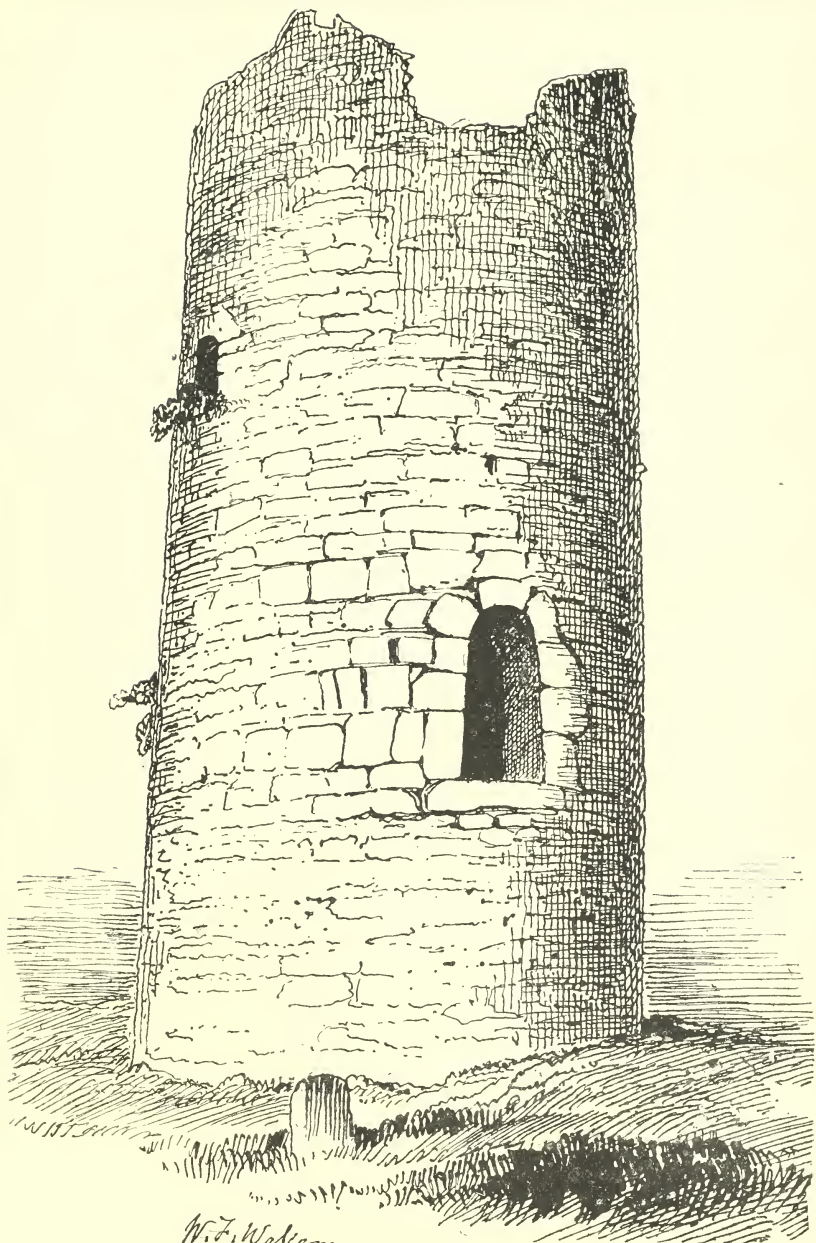
The men of Ireland collected to Dublin, namely, Muirheartach ua Briain, with Munstermen, the men of Ossory, and the Leinstermen; Domhnall, the son of Mac Lochlainn, King of Oileach, with the Cinel-Conaill and Cinel-Eoghain; Domhnall, son of Flann, King of Teamhair, with the men of Meath; Domhadh Ua h Eochadha, with the Ulidians; and Godfrey, lord of the foreigners and of Ath-eliath, with ninety ships. These proceeded from the East to Magh-Laighean, and they burned Uachtar-ard, and routed the men of Munster, Leinster, and Ossory, who fled, without spilling blood. After this the Ulstermen returned home, for they did not wish to plunder Leinster.

To the west of the ruins above mentioned stands the round tower, which according to the Ordnance Survey Map is 34 feet in height; the upper portion is in a very dilapidated state. It is built of large rough quarry-stones of the "green-flag" type common in the district, which decrease greatly in size in the upper portion; they are laid in irregular courses.

The butt is hollow, and measures 47 feet in external circumference near the present level of the ground.

The only apertures left are the doorway and the small window of the storey above it. There are three ledges of rough stones left inside showing where the original floors rested. The second ledge is 9 feet above the first. At the level of the door the wall is just over 3 feet in thickness.

The doorway faces the east, and is round-headed and of cut granite, except the sill, which consists of green-flag in one piece. Unless the earth and rubbish were cleared away from the base below the doorway down to the plinth (or projecting course of stones outside) it will be impossible to find out the

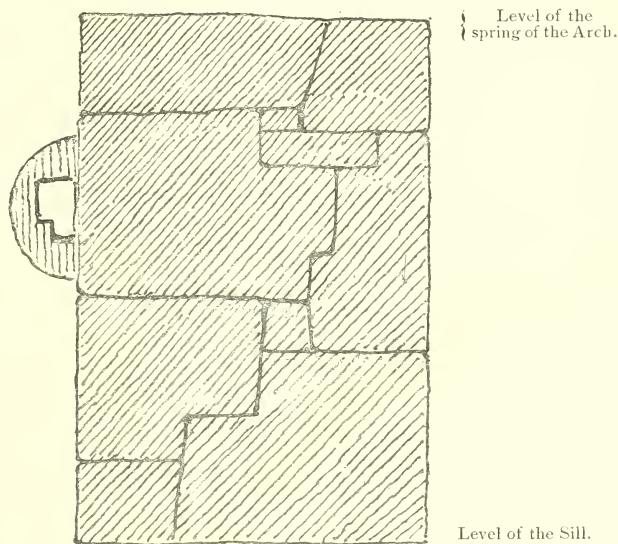


W. F. Wakeman.  
1892.

ROUND TOWER OF OUGHTERARD.



original height of the doorsill above the ground. At present it is  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet, while the interior level also with its accumulation of rubbish is 3 feet lower. The arching-head of the doorway is composed of three granite stones, each running the full depth of the wall. The jambs are also of largish blocks of granite, well cut and very carefully fitted, *vide* sketch. On the inside a shallow groove runs round the doorway into which the door fitted; on the right-hand side (as you look outwards) are two



MASONWORK OF THE RIGHT JAMB IN THE DOORWAY  
OF THE OUGHTERARD ROUND TOWER.

small square sockets, the upper one of which is still filled up with a portion of the iron support on which the door hung; on the opposite side, in a prolongation of one of the granite stones forming the jamb, is cut a socket for the insertion of the bolt to the door. The sides incline  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. In height the doorway is 4 feet 9 inches; in width 1 foot 10 inches at the spring of the arch; 2 feet  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the bottom; in depth 3 feet. A drawing of this doorway is to be found at p. 405 of "Petrie's Round Towers," from which it has been copied into "Graves' and Prim's "Antiquities of St. Canice's, Kilkenny," at p. 123.

The little window on the second floor faces the south. It is

round-headed, the head being formed of one piece of granite scooped out to form the arch, while the sides and sill are built of rough undressed stone of the same description as the rest of the building; internally it is square-headed and roughly built. Owing to the ruinous state of the upper portion of the tower no trace of the window on the next or third storey can be made out.

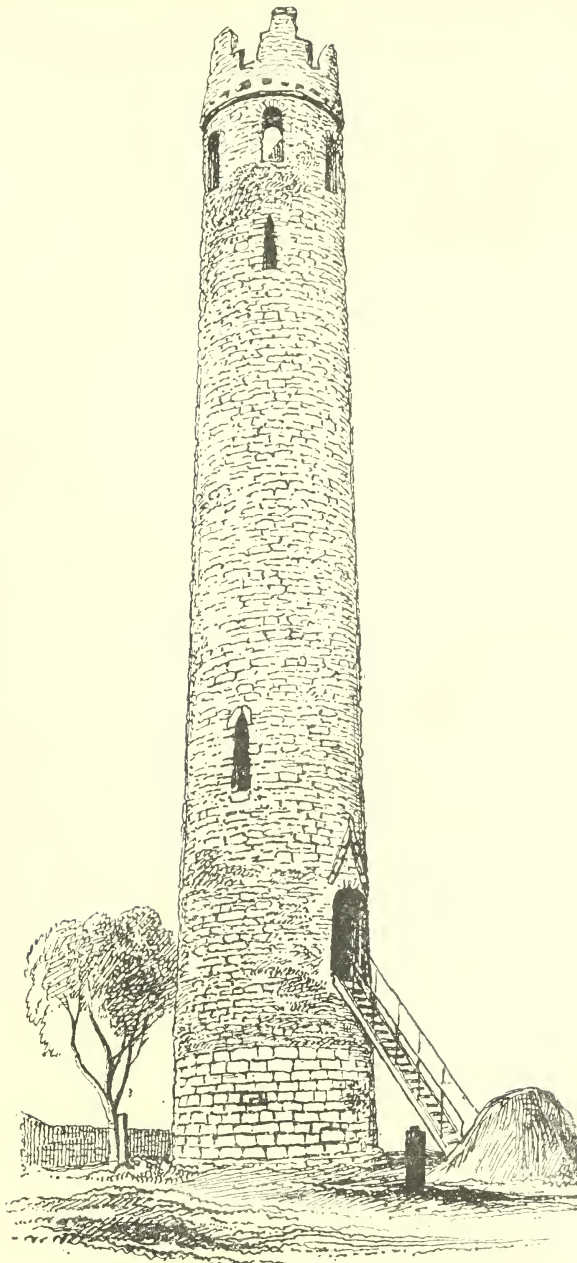
#### THE ROUND TOWER OF KILDARE.

The ancient name of Kildare was "Drumcree," or, "the Ridge of Clay." It obtained its present name about the year 470, when St. Bridget, the Mary of Ireland, after she took the veil, settled there, and built her little cell under a large oak tree; from this incident it was known as "Cill Dara," or, "the Church of the Oak"; and in time as St. Bridget's fame increased the name extended to the neighbouring town and district, till eventually the importance of this religious establishment became so great that when the Pale, or the English land, was divided into counties in the reign of King John "Kildare" was selected as the name for this county, which comprises portions of the ancient territories of Carbury, Offaly, Offelan, and Omurethy. In the latter end of the tenth century the trunk of St. Bridget's Oak is mentioned by Cogitosus, Bishop of Kildare, as still standing and much venerated and sought after for its miraculous curing powers.

St. Bridget's festival is held on the 1st of February. She was the daughter of distinguished parents: her father was Dubhtach, a descendant of Eochy, brother of the famous Conn of the Hundred Battles, and her mother was named Brotsach. She was born at Faughart, in the Co. Louth, in the middle of the fifth century, and after a charitable and holy life she died in her 70th year on the 1st of February, 523. Her body was buried beside the high altar, and a couple of centuries later her relics were enshrined, and in the year 835 they were removed for safety to the cathedral church of Downpatrick, and placed beside the relics of St. Patrick and St. Columbkille.

During the ninth century Kildare was five times plundered by the Danes, and twice that number of times in the following century, so that the protection of the round tower must have been frequently sought. The date of its erection is unrecorded, and it is impossible to make even a guess at it, judging from its masonry, as strange to say it is of two styles—the lower portion is of well-cut and well-fitted granite blocks, while above it is much older looking work, consisting of rubble masonry of





*H. F. Wakeman*  
1892.

ROUND TOWER OF KILDARE.



quarry-stone. This peculiarity is also to be found in one or two other round towers; Drumlane round tower, in the Co. Cavan, is, I believe, an instance.

That this tower is of very early date is proved by a reference to it made by Gerald de Barry (also called Giraldus Cambrensis, or Gerald the Welshman) who wrote in 1186 a description of Ireland. Alluding to round towers generally, he speaks of them as “ecclesiastical towers which, according to the custom of the country, are slender, lofty, and moreover round”; and in another place he mentions a tradition in connexion with the Kildare round tower, how that “from the time of St. Bridget a beautiful falcon frequented Kildare, and was accustomed to perch on the top of the church tower, hence it was popularly called St. Bridget’s Bird, and held by all in great veneration.” The church tower here mentioned can have been none other than the round tower, as the square cathedral towers had not then been introduced.

The round tower stands at some distance to the west of the nave of St. Bridget’s Cathedral; it is in a perfect condition, except for the original conical stone roof, which is missing; in place of it there are five stepped or graduated battlements. This form of battlement is entirely peculiar to Ireland. In Harris’s edition of Ware’s Works (*vide*, Vol. 11., p. 123 of the Dublin edition) these battlements, which are between four and five feet in height, are thus mentioned:—

“It is manifest,” he says, “that some of the round towers have had artificial battlements added to them in later times; witness the tower of Kildare, which having been pointed and repaired within these few years, had then a regular neat battlement raised on it, which before was only an irregular broken wall, as appears by the scheme given thereof by Sir Thomas Molyneux, taken before it was repaired, and which I myself very well remember.” (This was written in the first half of the last century.)

The height of the tower from the top of the battlements to the plinth, or projecting course of stones at the base, is  $105\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Several works on Irish antiquities have made, or repeated, a glaring error in stating the height is about 132 feet. Among others this misstatement is to be found in:—

Harris’s Ware’s Works on Ireland, published in 1739 in Dublin.	
Grose’s Antiquities of Ireland, . . . . .	1791
Seward’s Topographia Hibernica, . . . . .	1795
Rawson’s Statistical Survey of the Co. Kildare,	1807
Thomas Cromwell’s Excursions in Ireland, . . . . .	1820
Brewers’ Ireland, . . . . .	1826
Thomas Bell’s Gothic Architecture of Ireland,	1828
The Dublin Penny Journal, Vol. IV., . . . . .	1834
Bishop Moran’s Edition of Monasticon Hibernicum,	1876

Probably a book of reference like the "Topographia Hibernica" was consulted, and thus the others were led astray like a flock of sheep.

The base is solid and measures, about a couple of feet from the ground,  $53\frac{1}{2}$  feet in circumference. Petrie in his book says that a clergyman named Browne, of Kildare, during the first half of this century, excavated it in search of sepulchral interments, but was unsuccessful, though five or six very rare and ancient little silver coins were dug up during the operation. These coins are known among collectors as bracteati; they bear no inscription, are very thin, and are struck only on the one side.

The internal diameter, at the level of the door, is  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and would be a little more if it was not for the plastering on the walls, which at this level are 4 feet in thickness.

There are altogether, including the doorway floor, six storeys in the tower. The bottom or doorway one has no window, the remainder (except the top) are each lit by a narrow, round, or triangular-headed window, while the top storey has five large openings. Projecting courses of stones supported the original floors, and on them the modern floors now rest, so that with the help of ladders one can ascend to the summit. Above the top storey is a flat roof formed of large flags, projecting one beyond the other till they meet. A trap-door in it enables one to reach the battlements, below which is an external offset.

As mentioned before this tower is built in a very peculiar manner. The masonry of the base for the first 8 or 10 feet consists of well-cut and carefully-fitted blocks of granite; above that the remainder of the tower is composed of rough quarry-stones of the green-flag type, laid in irregular courses, except the doorway and its surrounding masonry, which is built of a red sandstone.

Looking at the tower from the outside gives one the impression that a granite round tower once existed, which was all destroyed except the base, upon which another was erected of far inferior work and of a worse class of stone. It may have been the intention to have built the tower of granite, but as there is none in the locality, it may have been found too expensive and troublesome to bring it from a distance, and so it was discontinued.

The windows have next to no cut stone about them; their sills and jambs are all of rough stone work. They, like the doorway, look as if they had undergone rough repairs, probably at the same time as the battlements were added; and no matter

what their external shape may be they all splay inwards,\* and are round-headed inside, the arch consisting of rough wedges of stone. Their measurements are given below:—

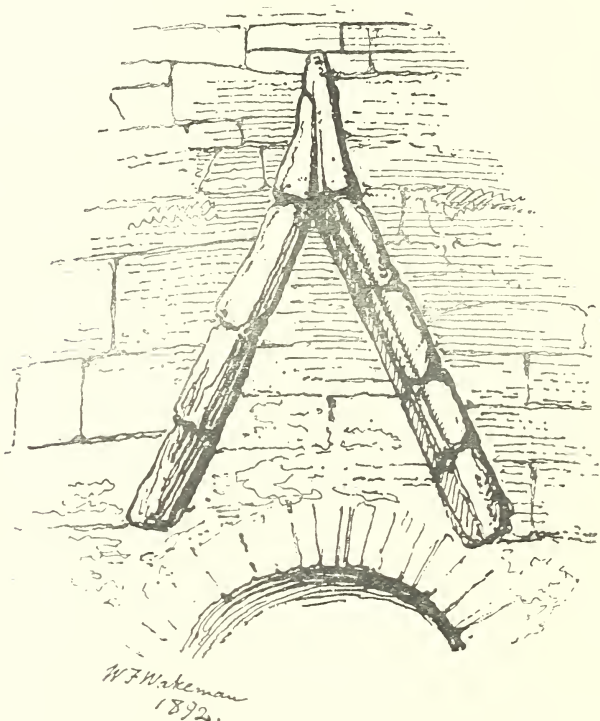
	HEIGHT.		WIDTH.		DEPTH.
	out.	in.	out.	in.	
The window on the second storey faces the S. W. ; it is triangular-headed, and so formed by two small red sandstone flags leaning against one another, . . . . .	5' 4"	5' 4"	1' 5"	2' 7"	4' 6"
The window on the third storey faces the N. W. ; it is round-headed, being formed out of one piece of red sandstone, . . . . .	4' 4"	5' 6"	1' 0"	2' 8"	4' 6"
The window on the fourth storey faces the S. E. ; it is also round-headed, and consists of one piece of red sandstone, . . . . .	3' 6"	4' 4"	1' 0"	2' 6"	4' 6"
The window on the fifth storey faces the S. W. ; it is triangular-headed, and so formed by flat pieces of the ordinary stone, jutting one beyond the other, till they meet, . . . . .	4' 2"	5' 0"	0' 11"	2' 9"	4' 1"
The sixth and top storey is lit by five biggish windows; they are all round-headed, and formed of rough wedges of the ordinary stone, . . . . .	4' 8"		2' 0"		2' 11"

The doorway faces the south-east, and is situated 14 feet above the level of the ground (which is about a foot below the plinth), and like the one in the Timahoe round tower in the Queen's County, must, when perfect, have been a beautiful specimen of the ornamented Irish Romanesque style. Unfortunately it is now in a very incomplete and patched-up state. On the face of the tower above it is the remains of a triangular eyebrow or canopy, composed of projecting stones still bearing ornamental lines. Petrie, referring to this doorway says:—

This interesting doorway is built of a hard, siliceous sandstone of light colour, and the ornaments on it are carved in very low relief. Its general form may be described as consisting originally of four concentric arches, one recessed beyond the other, and resting on round pilasters, or semi-columns,

\* This would seem to be a modern improvement, as I believe in no other case do the windows of round twoers splay at all.

with flat imposts or capitals. The ornaments on the recessed arches are also much injured, and the fourth, or innermost arch, is the only one now remaining in tolerable preservation. The external arch is 7 ft. 2 in. in height, and 3 ft. 8 in. in width; the second arch is 6 ft. 10 in. in height and 3 ft. 2 in. in width; the third arch is 6 ft. 7 in. in height and 2 ft. 10 in. in width; and the fourth or innermost arch is 5 ft. 8 in. in height,



REMAINS OF THE CANOPY OVER THE DOORWAY OF THE  
KILDARE ROUND TOWER.

2 ft. 1 in. in width, and 1 ft. 3 in. in depth. The entire depth of the doorway or thickness of the wall is 4 ft., and the height of its floor from the ground is 15 ft. The floor of this doorway is raised by a step of 8 in. in height at the innermost arch, and it is probable that the other divisions may have been raised above each other by similar steps.

At p. 209 of his book Petrie gives a sketch of the doorway and of the pattern on the innermost arch, that on the capital is incorrectly drawn; and at p. 75 of Wilkinson's "Ancient Architecture of Ireland" the same portion is also incorrectly

copied from the original. Another picture of this doorway is given in Bell's "Gothic Architecture in Ireland," but it too is very incorrectly drawn. For a good space all round this doorway the face of the tower is built of the same red sandstone as the doorway itself.

Views of this round tower are to be found in Vol. I. of Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland; Vol. III. of the "Anthologia Hibernica Magazine," which is also copied into Seward's "Topographia Hibernica"; Vol. III. of Cromwell's "Excursions through Ireland"; Bishop Comerford's "Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," Vol. II.; Harris's "Ware's Works on Ireland," Vol. I., published 1739; in a book called "A Natural History of Ireland," in three parts, published in Dublin in 1726; the third part is by Dr. Thomas Molyneux, and in it he introduces a sketch of this round tower before the present Irish battlements had been added to it (this probably is what Harris refers to in his Ware's Works, which has been quoted above); and in Sandby's select views in England, Scotland, and Ireland, published in 1778.

#### THE ROUND TOWER OF TAGHADOE.

Taghadoe (pronounced Taptoo), lies two and a-half miles to the south of Maynooth, in the northern end of the county. It is situated in the low flat country that lies between Maynooth and Rathcoffey. The name means "The House of St. Tua." Little is known of this St. Tua, except that his full name was Ultan Tua or Ultan the Silent; that he was also connected with the monastery of Clane (which is some five miles off as the crow flies), and that his festival was held on the 22nd of December; under that date the Martyrology of Donegal has the following entry:—

Ultan Tua and Iotharnaise, two saints who are at Claonadh (Clane), *i.e.* a church which is in Ui Faelain, in Leinster. This is the Ultan Tua who used to put a stone in his mouth in the time of Lent, so that he might not speak at all.

Father Shearman (in the note on p. 114), in his "Loca Patriciana," says that these two saints were brothers of St. Maighnen, Abbot of Kilmainham, near Dublin; and that their father was Aed, son of Colean, King of Oirghialla (a district in Ulster), who died, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters," in the year 606, when on a pilgrimage to Clonmacnois.

The only reference to Taghadoe that the above Annals contain is under the year 765, viz. :—

Folachtach of Teach Tuac, abbot of Cluain mie Nois, died.

The ancient name of the district in which Taghadoe is situated was in Ui Faelain or Offelan.

The churchyard in which the Round Tower stands is small, and the south and south-eastern portion of it alone is used for burials. On the northern side of it stands the unroofed walls of a modern church, built in 1831, which has been disused since the Disestablishment; till then the hollow base of the round tower was used as a coalshed for the church, a doorway having been made out of a gap in the wall at the base for convenience. This gap is shown in a sketch of the tower taken in 1794. In June, 1886, when the round tower became a national monument this doorway was built up, a large growth of ivy which was splitting the wall at the summit was stripped off and uprooted, and the tower was repointed where necessary.

During these repairs the height of the tower was taken and found to measure 65 feet from the plinth to the top; its diameter inside the base is 9 feet; its external circumference 51 feet; and the thickness of the wall at the old doorway,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground, 3 feet 4 inches.

The tower is built of a bad slaty quality of limestone, but the stones are well rounded to the curve, and laid in irregular courses; the middle portion of the tower is much better built than the remainder, as the stones are more carefully squared and the courses more regularly laid.

The summit of the tower ends off very evenly all round, as if the stone conical roof alone was wanting, but strange to say there are none of the usual windows to the top storey—a remarkable peculiarity which is not to be met with in any other round tower throughout Ireland. Some two or three feet below the summit there are, at equal distances apart, six small rough square holes, resembling the putlog-holes used for scaffolding, which penetrate right through the wall. What they were intended for it is impossible now to say, but they give one the impression that the tower was never entirely finished.

The floors were supported by means of ledges, and including the one at the doorway level were five in number. Those intervening between the doorway and the top-storey are lit by three square-headed windows of moderate size; their sides incline; and the sills, jambs, and lintels are all of roughly dressed stone



of the same description as the rest of the tower. The window on the second storey faces the S.E. ; the next faces the S.W. ; and the third faces the N.W.

The doorway faces the S. E., is round-headed, and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the plinth, which is all but level with the ground ; with the exception of the sill and where it was at one time repaired, it is built of well-cut granite, and has a band running round its external face by way of ornamentation. The sill consists of one large piece of limestone, running the full depth of the wall, which as before mentioned is 3 feet 4 inches along the outside curve ; it is 4 feet 7 inches in length, and 10 inches thick. The arching head is formed of three stones, the two side ones running the full depth of the wall. The granite jamb on the right-hand side is entirely gone, and was at one time repaired with common stone ; the interior portion of the left jamb was also in like manner repaired, so that there are now no traces of the original door-fastenings. The following are the doorway's present measurements :—In height, 5 feet ; in width, 2 feet (at the sill) ; in depth, 3 feet 4 inches. Built into the wall just above the keystone of the arch is an oblong piece of granite which at one time had a figure carved in relief on it, but now so weather-worn as to be undistinguishable ; what is left appears intended for a crucifixion, though only half the body, the head, and arms, can be made out, and that by guess-work.

There is a small headstone (about 18 inches high by 12) built into the base of the round tower close to the ground on the west side ; the inscription is undated, and all but illegible from age, as it was not deeply cut ; and as it may at some future time, when untraceable, puzzle the curious, it is given below :—

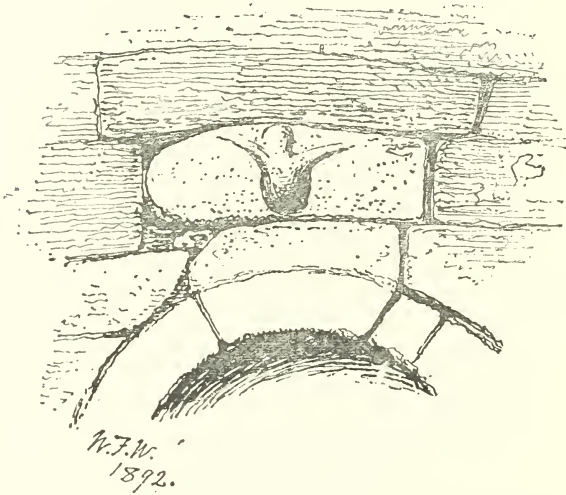
†  
IHS

Gloria in excelsus Deo  
pray for the Soul of  
John o Hara  
May the Sls of fathful  
the the marcy God Rest  
N. pace. Amen

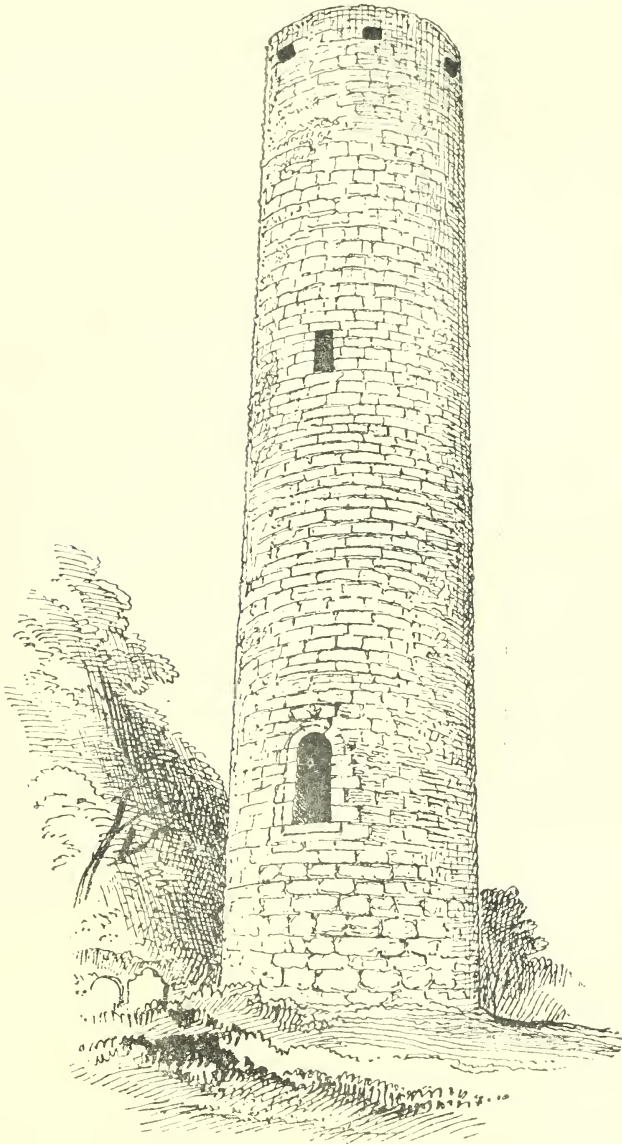
Such is the peculiar wording (or rather miswording) on this insignificant-looking little tombstone ; we are left in the dark as

to who John O'Hara was, as none of the neighbouring headstones bear that surname—the name, too, belongs to Connaught.

A sketch of this round tower is given on p. 49, Vol. II. of Lord Dunraven's work on "Irish Architecture." It is drawn by Petrie, and includes the church, which became a ruin in 1641.



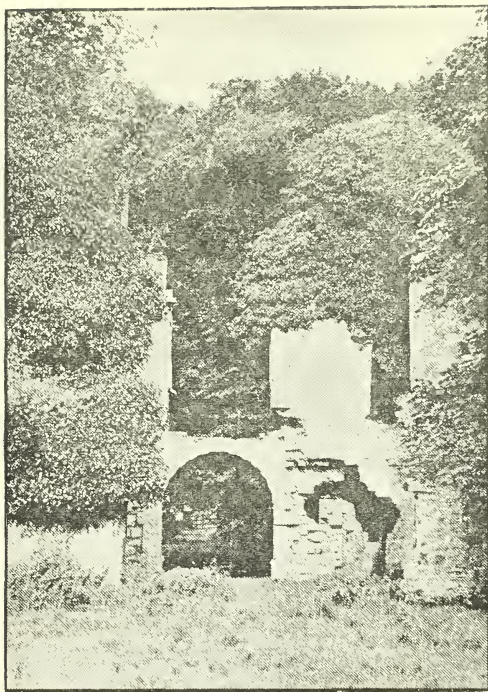
SCULPTURE OVER THE DOORWAY OF THE TAGHADOE ROUND TOWER.



*W. F. Wakeman.*  
1892.

ROUND TOWER OF TAGHADOE.





ST. LEGER'S CASTLE, GRANGEMELLON.

*A SLIGHT SKETCH OF GRANGEMELLON,  
AND  
THE STORY OF ST. LEGER'S CASTLE.\**

BY A. A. WELDON.

I AM indebted and must express my thanks to Lord Walter Fitzgerald, Col. Walter Borrowes, the Right Rev. Dr. Comerford, and the Rev. J. Carroll, C.C., Athy, for the interesting documents and notes which they have been kind enough to place at my disposal, without which I should undoubtedly have had considerable trouble in putting together this short sketch of the old castle and its surroundings, and the story of the tragedy which is alleged to have taken place there in the seventeenth century. Owing to the kindness of

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\* Read, September 15, 1892.

these gentlemen my task has been rendered comparatively easy. To Miss Manders also I am very much obliged for the excellent photograph of the ruins, which accompanies these notes.

The name Grangemellon\* is, I believe, derived from two Irish words, which signify the "Grange of the Mill," and is that attached to a pretty and romantic spot, which gives its name to a townland, situated in a pleasant vale on the banks of the river Barrow three miles south of Athy, in the barony of Kilkea and Moone.

Looking east from the summit of an old tumulus, about 300 yards from the river, the view is strikingly beautiful and picturesque. To the immediate left of the observer stand the ruins of St. Leger's Castle, of which more anon, with the river Barrow in the foreground gleaming and sparkling through a mass of trees and undergrowth, which cover the banks and surfaces of several large islands; while on the opposite side of the river stands Kilmorony, the seat of Sir Anthony Weldon, with its well-wooded background and the tops of Wolfhill, Fossey, and the Queen's County hills appearing over the trees in the distance.

The ruins now consist of two octagonal towers flanking an archway in a wonderful state of preservation, and built in the Jacobean style. In the immediate vicinity are three or four large fish-ponds, an old stone well, or rather walled-in spring, and the walls of a large garden or orchard, while some fine walnut and Spanish chestnut-trees and a couple of very old mulberry-trees show where the extensive pleasure and fruit gardens stood.

An early mention of Grangemellon is to be found in the assignment of Dower, granted to Anastasia, the wife of Sir David Wogan, of Rathcoffey, dated the 24th February, 1418, by which she was allowed†:—

In Melone's Grange 160 acres of land on the west side of that town; also  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres of meadow, on the west side of that meadow; also 1 acre of bog there, on the west side of that bog; also a third part of the weir there; also a third part of the rabbit warren there; also a third part of the stone house there on the south side; also three messuages and a third of a messuage on the west side.

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\* From "Gransha" = "Grange," a place for grain. "Mullawn" = "Millen," a mill.—(Irish Local Names, by P. W. Joyce, LL.D.) "Mullan," or "Mullaun," means a little summit, which might allude to the old tumulus mentioned. In this case the name would mean the "place of grain," or "Farm House of the little Hill."

† See "Rotulorum Cancellariae Hib.: Calendarium."

It is also mentioned in 1538, after the suppression of the monasteries, when the late prioress of the Nunnery of Timolin was "by inquisition found to have been seized of a parcel of land in Grangemellon called 'Dromgyrroke'!"\*

Early in the seventeenth century Henry Borrowes, Esq., first possessor of Giltown, married Jane, daughter of Sir Arthur Savage of Rheban, and, dying 20th March, 1614, left Erasmus Borrowes, who afterwards, at the breaking out of the rebellion in 1641, was High Sheriff of the County Kildare, and deposed upon oath he was not "able to resist the Irish, by the *Posse Comitatus*, and that he lost in goods, corn and cattle, at his several houses of Grangemellon, Giltown, and Corbally, £9396; in debts, £11,932 2s. 0d.; besides his yearly income, £1200, or thereabouts." In consideration whereof, and of his good and faithful services during these troubles, King Charles I., by Privy Seal, dated at Ragland 7th July, 1645, and by Patent, 16th February, 1646, created him a baronet. Sir Erasmus married Sarah daughter of Walter Weldon, Esq., of Woodstock.

Prior to 1620† Grangemellon was the property of Sir James Fitzgerald—a branch of the Geraldines of Kildare. But in 1623 an English gentleman named Philip Bushen of King's Ashe in Devonshire was resident there, when a tragic occurrence was alleged to have taken place. He was charged with murdering his wife on the 23rd March, 1623. For this he was tried by a jury before Lord Kilmallock, condemned and executed, though he was generally supposed to have been innocent. The trial had been deferred from time to time, and Bushen's son and Erasmus Borrowes, then living at Giltown, together with the latter's father-in-law, Walter Weldon, became sureties for his appearing at the time. In 1623 Walter Weldon of Woodstock was High Sheriff of the County Kildare, and on the execution of the unfortunate Bushen‡ made an inventory of Bushen's goods and took possession of the same in right of his

\* On the suppression of the Dominican Priory of Athy, in 1541, its possessions were granted to Martin Pelles; amongst these were one acre of arable land, two of meadow, and four of pasture, great measure in "Mollen's Grange."—(See Ham. Cal., 1-58.)

† 1637. By two inquisitions, both taken at Naas, one on the 13th of June, 1625, and the other on the 13th of October, 1637, Sir Pierce Fitzgerald, of Ballyshannon, in the Co. Kildare, was found seized in fee of Grangemellon, containing six messuages and two hundred acres, all of which are portions of the manor of Nichollston.

‡ Extracts from Morrin's "Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls, Ireland, of the time of Charles I. :—

1625. The King to Lord Viscount Falkland and the rest of the Council:—"Whereas we are informed that one Philip Bushen, of Grange Mullen, in the

office, they having escheated to the Crown. Subsequently Sir Arthur Savage—a distinguished military commander in Elizabeth's reign and Governor of Connaught—then keeping garrison at Castle Rheban, near Athy, together with Walter Weldon, Lord Mountmorris and others, accused the Lord Deputy, Viscount Falkland, of injustice regarding the trial of Bushen,

County of Kildare, in that our Realm, was lately convicted and executed for murder, whereby all his goods and Estate are become forfeited to us; we are graciously, at the humble suit of our well beloved servant, Thomas Caldwell, and for and in consideration of his long and faithful service, and the better to enable him to attend us, having a place of near employment about our person, we bestow upon him, as our free gift and bounty, all such lands and leases, goods, chattels, and moneys, with all rights and reversions whatsoever as did belong unto the said Bushen and are now come, or ought to come to us, by reason of his conviction aforesaid," etc. Signed at Salisbury, 15th Oct., 1625.

"1626. Commission to Sir Terence O'Dempsey, Sir Robert Pigott, Sir Henry Bealing, and others, to inquire, by the oaths of good men of the Counties of Kildare and Queen's County, what lands or tenements Philip Bushen, late of Grangemillen, in the County of Kildare, was possessed of at the time of his attainder. 19th August, 1626.

"Inventory of the goods and chattels of Philip Bushen, lately convicted of treason:—

We find:—	£	s.	d.
The Farm and lease of Grangemillen to be worth . . . . .	cexl	—	—
The Corn this harvest, . . . . .	lxvi	—	—
The Lease of the Mill of Ardree, . . . . .	x	—	—
Tithes of the Moiety of Grangemillen, . . . . .	—	xx	—
The mortgage of the weir of Ardree not worth the rent.			
32 Cows, at 26s. 8d. apiece, . . . . .	xlii	xiii	iii
2 Bulls, at 26s. 8d. each, . . . . .	—	liii	iii
5 oxen, . . . . .	—	—	—
38 calves at 4s. Irish each, . . . . .	vii	xii	—
Tables and timber implements, . . . . .	—	xxvi	viii
8 garrans, at 13s. 4d. each (of which one colt was proved to belong to Philip, the younger), . . . . .	v	vi	viii
A bill, wherein Nicholas Wolfe was indebted . . . . .	—	xxxviii	viii
4 hogs, valued at 4s. apiece, . . . . .	—	xvi	—
Certain wains, their chains, plough, harness, and irons, . . . . .	—	liii	iii
Hay, made and unmade, . . . . .	vi	—	—
700 sheep and 400 lambs, at 2s., . . . . .	cx	—	—
4 pieces, or guns, valued at 3s. 4d. each . . . . .	—	xiii	iii
One old colt, . . . . .	—	vi	viii
One iron pot and 4 pans of brass, . . . . .	v	—	—
3 pint pewter pots, 1 pewter dish, one pewter salt, one pair of iron trippets, and one spit, . . . . .	—	vi	viii
A hair cloth to dry malt, and some timber, . . . . .	—	x	—
A piece of corn in ground, seized for rent, . . . . .	—	—	—

"The castle, town, and lands of Grangemillen; six cows and a sucking calf, 14 young cattle, heifers, and bullocks, two year old, worth about 8s. apiece; 18 yearly bullocks and heifers, worth 5s. apiece; 6300 foot of boards, lying in the wood, worth 2s. 6d. a hundred."

BLACKFORD, 6th September, 1625.



and of illegally possessing himself of his goods for the purpose of portioning his illegitimate daughter, who was married to O'Dempsey, grandson of Lord Clanmalier. However, in 1631, on the 27th May, the Lord Deputy prosecuted, before the Council in the Star Chamber, the above parties who had accused him, and, the Government influence prevailing, they "adjudged Weldon to be committed to the prison of the Fleete and pay a fine to the King of £1000. And Savage—who the court conceiveth to be the greatest offender, being a Privy Councillor—to be committed to the Fleete and to pay £1000; and Bushen (the son) to the Fleete and to pay £500."

In the vicinity of the ruins close to the river there is at present to be seen a swampy piece of ground, with a dangerous kind of quicksand or boghole in its centre, which is known as the "Lady's Well,"\* and it is this spot that local tradition assigns as the scene of the alleged murder, but no authentic record is extant of how the crime was committed.

After this Grangemellon became the property of Sir Erasmus Borrowes, Bart., in whose occupation the castle was when it was plundered by the rebels in 1641, who, under General Owen Roe O'Neil, on April 10th (Easter Sunday), assembled, two miles from Athy, on the river Barrow, numbering 10,000, with forty colours, and "sent out their horse over against Grangemellon," whereupon the English army retreated towards Dublin, "leaving, in and about Athy, Captain Erasmus Borrowes, Captain Grimes, Captain Thomas Weldon, and the two Captains Pigott, with their companies, 300 whereof was part of our army." The castle was subsequently recaptured and garrisoned by the King's troops.

Sir Erasmus died in 1656, leaving a son, Sir Walter Borrowes, who married, 16th February, 1656, Lady Eleanor,† third daughter of George, sixteenth Earl of Kildare (the "Fairy Earl").

In 1661 the Hon. Robert Fitzgerald, second son of George, the sixteenth Earl of Kildare, resided at Grangemellon, of which place he obtained from his brother-in-law, Sir Walter Borrowes, in 1674, a lease for 999 years, to commence at the expiration of a former lease to his brother, the Earl of Kildare, for 61 years, from 1661.

Lodge says that Robert Fitzgerald (created in 1680 Custos Rotulorum of County Kildare), father of Robert, nineteenth

\* That portion of the lands of Grangemellon, where the Lady's Mill is situated, is to this day called "Poul-Gueileen," *i. e.* the "Pool of Eileen."

† Her mother was Lady Joan, daughter of Richard, the great Earl of Cork.

Earl of Kildare, lived at Grangemellon, in great honour and esteem, till King James II. came to the throne; when, by the advice of Lady Tyrconnell, he was stripped of all his employments and estate to the value of £3300 a-year; his troops, for which he had refused £2000 some time before, taken from him, and himself imprisoned in Newgate for twenty-one weeks.

Before the close of the century Grangemellon seems to have changed ownership several times; for, on the 29th March, 1716,\* Sir John St. Leger purchased, from John Lyon, Esq., for the sum of £1000, the seat and lands of Grangemellon, which he made his residence and greatly improved.

This Sir John St. Leger was the second son of John St. Leger of Doneraile, Co. Cork, his mother being Lady Mary Dorcas Chichester, only daughter of Arthur, first Earl of Donegal; his eldest brother, Arthur St. Leger, in June, 1703, was created first Viscount Doneraile.

Sir John, after his education at Westminster and the Inns of Court, returned to Ireland, and practised the Law; in 1713 he became M.P. for Doneraile, and in 1714 was appointed one of the Barons of the Exchequer. On the 14th May, 1743 he died there, and two days later was buried in the Kilkea churchyard. He was twice married, first to Mary, daughter of James Ware of Meggestown, near Dublin (grandson of the famous antiquarian, Sir James Ware): she died in November, 1722, leaving no issue; and, secondly, to Levina, daughter of Captain Kingsmill Penefather of Cashel. The marriage took place in February, 1723.

By his second wife he had five sons and four daughters.

John St. Leger, the eldest son, was born on the 10th April, 1726. He married, on the 23rd July, 1754, Mary, only daughter of Colonel the Hon. Thomas Butler, Governor of Limerick, and brother of the second Viscount Lanesborough, and had issue two sons and one daughter. This John St. Leger was a member of the infamous society known as the "Hell-fire Club," some of whose meetings took place in his castle of Grangemellon; they were also attended by Henry Dixon of Kilkea Castle, James M'Roberts of Castleroe, and Robert Hartpole of Shrule Castle, in the Queen's County. The uniform was a red suit and white stockings. John St. Leger

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\* The founder of the Irish branch of the St. Leger family was Sir Anthony St. Leger, of Ulcomb, in Kent, who came over to Ireland in the year 1537. In 1540 he was made Lord Deputy, and in reward for his good services to the State he was granted by the King, on the 4th May, 1542, the site and precinct of the late Nunnery of Graney, in the Co. Kildare, along with other lands in Ireland.—Archdall's "Lodge's Peerage," vol. vi, p. 116.

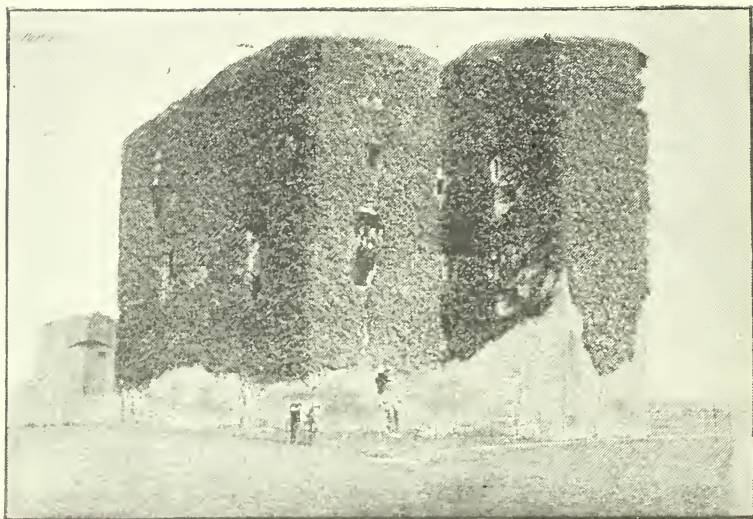
died in 1769, and was buried in the Kilkea vault on the 20th March. No tombstone or monument marks the last resting-place of the St. Legers buried in Kilkea churchyard.

The St. Leger crest is a griffin, passant or; arms—azure, fretty argent, a chief or; motto—"Haut et bon."

The following description of the Old House at Grangemellon is copied from the Journal, kept in the year 1782 by a gentleman named Austin Cooper, who was a keen antiquary. He says:—

13th August, 1782.—Grangemellon, Co. Kildare, is a fine, old, but neglected improvement, belonging to the St. Leger family. The house consists of two octagon towers, with a heavy pediment and cornice between, and the entrance to it is through a gateway, which is exactly like the house, or rather a miniature representation of it; in this had been a clock. The whole is situated in a vale on the side of the Barrow, and surrounded with fine trees and long avenues.

At the end of the last century the castle was destroyed, and the property passed into the hands of Mr. Walter Weldon, from whom it descended to his cousin, Sir Anthony Weldon, the present owner.



WOODSTOCK CASTLE.

*REMAINS IN ATHY AND NEIGHBOURHOOD.\**

By THE REV. J. CARROLL, C.C.

ST. MICHAEL'S.

**T**HIS is one of the most ancient of the many ruined churches in the parish of Athy. These ruins are several centuries old, for the church was built in the fourteenth century, and still some parts are in extraordinary preservation. The western gable is nearly perfect, and the small "light" above, with its oaken lintel, yet remains. Some years since a portion of the side walls disappeared, as did also the eastern end and the vestry on the south. A small, very ancient cross is lying upon the ground, and a cross or font is said to be buried in a grave within the ruins. The elevated surface of the earth here is said to be a proof of the antiquity of the place, and the surrounding graveyard may have been so used from the remotest times. When Sir Robert Bruce plundered Athy in

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\* Read, September 15, 1892.

1315, and gained the battle of Ardscul, there fell on the English side Raymond le Gros and Sir William Prendergast, and on the Scots' side Sir Fergus Andressan and Sir Walter Murray. A tradition says they were buried in St. Michael's, although Samuel Lewis and others mention "the Dominican Monastery" as the place of their interment. Some interesting monuments lie scattered around. One slab, broken off at the bottom, runs thus:—

In Hope of an Happy Resurrection Here Lyeth The Body of Robert Pearson Esqr Captain of the 10th Rejiment of Foot of Ireland who served under the brave Duke of Marlborough.  
 . . . . . Deceased joined . . . . .

Other inscriptions to members of the Pearson family may be seen, dated 1717, 1727. Then there is the burial-place of the members of the Dominican Order, one of whom, Father M'Donald, lived to the age of 110. Another monument on the south side relates that:—

Near this spot lie the remains of George King for many years sovereign of this town, a justice of the quorum, and one of the coroners of the County Kildare, he died the 17th January, 1777. Aged 60 years.

In front of Old St. Michael's Church, towards the road, there was formerly a fine old arch, probably the ancient entrance to the church. During some alterations this was taken down many years ago. Boherbuidhe was the name of the street here; the houses were knocked down, and the people have emigrated to Brooklyn, New York, where they have settled down, and given to their new locality the old Irish name, "Boherbuidhe." A lake or lough in the field opposite was filled in and disappeared some years since. It was named "Lugnasoc."

#### WOODSTOCK.

. . . "Thy walls that rise sublime,  
 In proud defiance of all-conquering time."

Woodstock Castle is amongst the most imposing and historic ruins in South Kildare. According to the *Anthologia Hibernica*, this castle was probably erected about 1253, the time of the foundation of St. John's Abbey by Richard de St. Michael, the Lord of Rheban. The name is English. It was an appendage to the Palatinate of Dunamaes, in the Queen's County, and was granted to the Earl of Pembroke. Some writers say it was the

Earl's descendant who erected the castle in 1290. Others assign its erection to Thomas Fitzgerald, Lord of Offaly and afterwards the seventh Earl of Kildare, about the middle of the fifteenth century. The original plan of the building was a regular square, as may still be seen. The square tower on the south was subsequently added, and was made in uniform continuation of the front facing the river. The situation of the castle, with the broad expanse of the river Barrow in front, and anciently an extensive wood surrounding the rear, must have rendered the place of great strength and almost impregnable. To protect Athy Ford on the west, as White's Castle did on the east, seems to have been the object of its erection. From the roof or from the beautifully mullioned windows—one of which is still partially perfect—distant and magnificent views of the grassy plains of Kildare, and of the Queen's County Mountains could be obtained. The outer court had a fine arched gateway to the north, which yet remains, as does also part of the outer enclosing walls. That very interesting sculpture formerly adorned this castle is evident from some pieces of stone that are still preserved. In the *Dublin Journal* of 1835 is a representation of a sculptured stone found in the ruins by Holmes Bigham, Esq., the proprietor of the castle at that time. A writer a century ago thus describes a cornice of a chimney-piece in the ruins of the old Castle of Woodstock:—

In one compartment of the cornice is sculptured the Fitzgerald arms, supported by two lions couchant, which seem to have been the support of the family arms before the introduction of the monkies by the Kildare branch of that family, which, according to Lodge in his "Peerage" (Vol. I., pp. 62-77, ed. Arch.), was not before the year 1300. This chimney-piece, therefore, must have been put up prior to that period. In the other compartment are two angels playing on a musical instrument, which seems to resemble the pipes of Pan blown by a bag. As no such instrument was ever in use in this country, they would probably represent the ancient bagpipes blown by the mouth, in which the bundle of pipes are the drones and the large ones the chanters. Both the angels have on the Irish barred or cap. This remarkable and interesting cornice was some time since removed to Carton, Maynooth, for its better preservation.

One of the traditions in connection with the origin of the monkey as the crest of the Offaly Geraldines is the following:—John Fitz Thomas, afterwards First Earl of Kildare (who died 1316), whilst an infant was in the Castle of Woodstock, near Athy, when there was an alarm of fire. In the confusion that ensued the child was forgotten; and when the servants returned to search for him the room in which he lay was found in ruins. Soon after this a noise was heard on one

of the towers, and on looking up they saw an ape, which was usually kept chained, carefully holding the child in his arms. The Earl, afterwards, in gratitude for his preservation, adopted a monkey for his crest and supporters, and some of his descendants in memory of the event took the additional motto of "*Non immemor beneficii.*"

Others refer this historic incident to Tralee Abbey tower after the battle of Callan. Some claim it for Maynooth Castle.

In 1260, according to the "Earls of Kildare," by the Marquis of Kildare, died Thomas Fitzmaurice, Baron of Offaly, surnamed "An Appagh," "Simiacus," or "The Ape," which name he received from being the hero of one of the foregoing traditions. He had married Rohesia, or Rose, daughter of Richard de St. Michael, Lord of Rheban. She was heiress of Athy and Woodstock.

About 1424, Thomas, the seventh Earl of Kildare, then Lord Offaly, married Dorothy, daughter of Anthony O'Moore, Leix, and with her obtained the manors of Woodstock and Rheban, and in them erected a court manor and court leet, which were still held down to the year 1793. Dorothy is left out in many of the pedigrees of the Fitzgerald family as dying without issue, whilst others make her to be the ancestor of several branches of the Geraldines.

In 1517 James, the Prior of St. Thomas's Abbey of Athy, with the consent of the community, granted to Edward Harold one castle (Castrum, Woodstock), one messuage, and an orchard, for the service of Gerald, Earl of Kildare, and his heirs. This was Gerald the ninth Earl (Geriote Oge), by the will of his father, founder of the College of Maynooth, who was on the "field of the cloth of gold" in 1520, and moved in some of the most stirring scenes of that eventful time. He was father of the "Fair Geraldine," of whom Henry, Earl of Surrey, and Sir Walter Scott have sung in undying verse. In 1530 this Earl, Geriote Oge, garrisoned and strengthened Woodstock Castle.

Gerald, Lord Offaly, who died in 1580, had married Catherine, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys. Her dower subsequently, amongst others, was Woodstock Manor.

The Manor of Woodstock was in the possession of Gerald, the eleventh Earl of Kildare, at his death in 1585. He had for his tutor the foster-brother of his father, the heroic Right Reverend Thomas Leverous.

King James I. assigned Woodstock Manor to the Countess of Kildare after the death of the fourteenth earl in 1612.

Woodstock Castle partook of most of the vicissitudes that

befell Athy. It was taken from the insurgents in 1642 by the Marquis of Ormond, who made it a halting-place for his troops.

In 1647, Owen Roe O'Neill surprised it and put the garrison to the sword, but Lord Inchiquin compelled him soon afterwards to surrender Athy and Woodstock.

In 1648, the castle appears to have been in possession of O'Neill and to have been the residence of Owen Sheil, a distinguished Irish Doctor, called "The Eagle of Physicians," a memoir of whom is found in the "Aphorismical Discovery." Whilst the Doctor was in Ulster with General O'Neill and his forces, Preston, who had parted from O'Neill and had now become his implacable enemy, being on his march southwards, came by Stradbally to Athy and planted his ordnance before Woodstock Castle. Catherine, the wife of Doctor Sheil and daughter of old Captain Tyrrell, was then within the castle. Preston commanded a trumpeter to sound surrender, promising her all safety and immediate restoration in this castle or in another at pleasure. The lady replied that never could she betray the trust reposed in her by General O'Neill by surrendering the castle to his enemies. A second time he commanded the trumpeter to sound, demanding a promise that after the taking of Athy she would surrender the castle. She answered that neither before nor after could she ever surrender unless to main force. A third time he essayed, and sent three captains whom he knew to be well-affected towards the Doctor and Mrs. Sheil, that they might prevail on her to deliver up the castle. But she, constant and generous lady, would not be thus persuaded. A fourth time he wrote a letter, in which he stated it to be honourable and safe and advantageous for her to surrender Woodstock Castle, and to send him a written reply by a trustworthy messenger. She wrote a "round" answer that if not a man remained in the castle, but only women and heaps of stones, never would she surrender. With this answer she sent a nephew of the Doctor's, which, when Preston received, so maddened him that he commanded the youth to be seized and forthwith hanged. For this purpose he ordered a cart to be got ready for a gallows, and sent a trumpeter to inform Mrs. Sheil what he intended, and that she should behold the execution if she did not immediately deliver up the castle. Nothing daunted, the valiant woman replied that it was a base, dishonourable act, a violation of the laws of all nations and of arms, to hang the messenger sent from one enemy to another; that she would never ransom him at so dear a price as was involved in capitulation. Moreover, if her husband and all her children were in the same critical position, she



could never become a traitor, and she valued their good name more than their lives. Preston then ordered the Provost Master to do his duty and to hang young Sheil in sight of the castle. The boy was on his knees preparing to meet his doom. The officers and commanders interposed, however, to prevent an act so opposed to the laws of war and of nations, and they succeeded. They saved the boy's life, but young Sheil was fast bound and compelled to march a prisoner with Preston's army for some time towards Carlow.

Nine years later, 1657, the Lordship of Woodstock and Castlemitchel was set by George, sixteenth Earl of Kildare, to Daniel Hutchinson, Alderman, for ninety-nine years, ending May, 1756, at one hundred a-year for the first forty years, and £203 yearly for the rest of the lease.

Woodstock, famed in Irish story, raising high its towering head,  
 Still proclaims its former glory, near old Barrow's crystal bed,  
 O'er its walls where ivy creeping, loves to weave its sombre green,  
 Forth, beneath the foliage peeping, many a sculptured stone is seen,  
 Where the silken standard flying, once its waving folds displayed,  
 Now the breeze, in murmurs sighing, mourns the havoc time has made.

#### TOBERARA.

This lonely and sequestered place, remote from habitation, is on the eastern bank of the river Barrow, one mile and a-half north of Athy town. In its solitude it is a scene of considerable beauty. The name Toberara, or as it was sometimes called Tobbera, probably signifies St. Bara' Well (Tober-Bara), or according to Mr. Kingsbury in the statistical account of Ireland (1814), it means Holy Well; or the well by the Barrow (Tober-Berjos). A church was built here in a most remote age. No ruins now remain standing, but its site may still be traced by the raised surface where the surrounding walls fell in. The older part of the wall, on the northern side, is apparently a portion of the ancient church. The space enclosed is of considerable extent. The well flows from the middle of it, and sends forth a great flood of water constantly, and all the year round—sparkling, bright, and limpid. People came hither from far and near, in olden times, to drink the water and to pray. St. John was the patron saint of the place, and on his festival, the 24th of June, a great concourse of pilgrims was usually present, and this custom continued during the early part of the present century. But like other patron days, or as they were

called "pattern days," it grew to an abuse and had to be prohibited. Still numbers go to drink the water for various cures and leave a votive token behind. Many also go for pleasure, the place is so pleasantly situated. In seasons when the river Barrow overflows its banks this enclosure sometimes becomes an island and can be reached only by boat. Interments occasionally take place in the burying-ground, and must at such times be difficult. A few monuments lie scattered around, none of them of more ancient date than A.D. 1801. Toberara formed part of the important parish of Kilberry, and is often mentioned in ancient records.

### KILBERRY.

"Domus sanctificationis nostrae et omnia desiderabilia nostra  
versa sunt in ruinas."

"All our lovely things are turned into ruins."

Kilberry is foremost in importance in the Athy districts, after St. Michael's and St. John's. The situation is pleasant, on the eastern side of the Barrow river, three miles north of Athy town, beautified with wood and meadow lands. The name of Kilberry is probably derived from the Church of St. Bairy (Cill-Bairy), founded long ages ago. In the very valuable work of the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, entitled "Collections, Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," is mentioned a St. Bairfion, "whose festival fills territories," the great son of Aed and brother of St. Finbar of Inis Tenonli, Little Island, on the Suir, from whom also is Kilbarry in Cork and in Waterford. Some local tradition suggests Coill-Birgos, *i.e.* "Woodland by the Barrow," as extensive woods anciently grew here. Kilberry seems very early to have been a distinct parish, with its appendant chapels. When Archbishop Henry de Loundres succeeded to the See of Dublin in 1212, on the death of Archbishop Comin, he resolved to establish four new dignitaries, and accordingly, in 1219, he constituted by charter—Dean, Precentor, Chancellor, and Treasurer. To the Dean he assigned Kilberry Church, chapels, lands, liberties, and free customs; as also those of Clony and of Geraldine. Clony (Clonwanwyr), denominated Much-Cloyne, was anciently a distinct parish, and was conferred upon the Dean both in temporals and in spirituals; it was, however, seized upon by O'More, a neighbouring chieftain of Irish race, who was possessed of it in Arch-

bishop John Alan's time, 1530. Geraldine (Clonard-a-gory, or as Archbishop Alan writes it Clonarde-i-Agory, the same as Tullaghbigory, or Tulloughgory) was also anciently a church independent of Kilberry. Archbishop Alan mentions that it had its subservient chapels; he calls it Little Cloyne near the river Barrow, "in loco munitissimo." These two parishes, with their chapels and appurtenances, became merged, or according to Mr. Mason "swallowed up" in Kilberry parish, which thenceforth for some time was of wide extent and of great importance. The castles of Kilberry were built about the thirteenth century. The *Anthologia Hibernica* states that they were erected for the protection of the English settlers by the members of the Boswel family. Another old account states that Kilberry was once an important place, having an Abbey with a church and two castles. The Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral had here a seneschal of his manor court, and this was his lordship. In 1200 (King John's time) a knight's service was rated at forty shillings yearly. In 1250, the valuation of Kilberry was sixty marks, and that of (Clonard) Geraldine was twenty marks annually. In 1280, in the annals of St. Patrick's, is recorded that Richarde de Dukesworth, Rector of Kilbele, granted all his lands and possessions "in tenemento de Kylbery" for purchase of lights for the altar and for maintenance of a perpetual vicar. The grant was confirmed by bull and by letters patent.

In 1325, a deed was executed between the Dean and Gilbert le Rede, to whom the former remitted the annual rent of forty-six shillings and six-pence, out of a tenement in Kilberry, upon condition that he should arm and maintain, at his own cost, a man at arms, to be ready at all times for the defence of the manor or for the service of the Dean. The arms and accoutrements with which he was to be provided are particularly described and seem worth recording. He was to have a coat of mail (lorica), with a short soldier's cloak (cum uno askedono), an iron helmet (capella ferea), a gorgiere or armour for the neck (gorgiero bono cum bonis quissoriis), together with iron gauntlets, lances, and all other things suitable. His horse was to be of the value of ten marks at least, with a war saddle and good trappings; which service, if the said Gilbert was upon any pretence to neglect, he was to be liable for the rent for which the Dean might then distrain. And if he lost his horse, so that in any year he could not perform this service, he was to be allowed the rent so incurred in the purchase of another, provided it were of the value of ten marks, and provided he supplied himself with one before the termination of the year.

In 1536, Rev. Edward Delahyde, of Kilberry, was included in the act of attainder for high treason against the "Earl of Kildare, his five uncles and their accessories."

In 1546, the 38th of Henry VIII., the Cathedral of St. Patrick's in Dublin was suppressed, and an inquisition was appointed to inquire concerning its appurtenances. Kilberry then passed to Thomas Eustace, Lord of Kilcullen, afterwards Viscount Baltinglass, who obtained on lease for twenty-one years the demesne and parish, for all which he covenanted to pay £40 per annum, besides proxies, and to provide a curate to perform divine service. The demesne land of the Dean then comprised two hundred acres; the tithes were payable from the townlands of Kilberry, Beherte, Balino, Ballitiral, Trowlau, Kileolman, Ballyruske, Fealyghe, *alias* Russellstown and (Tulloghbegory) Geraldine. The demesne land was nine score acres arable, and sixty of meadow and pasture, worth per annum £6 13s. 4d., besides twenty acres which O'More of the Irish Nation detained. The tithes of corn and hay in the towns of Kilberry and Russellstown were then worth per annum fifty marks. In the year 1630 the valuation of Kilberry was £120.

In 1635 Dean Benjamine Culme demised to Sir Thomas Meredith, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for £50 per annum, the Lordship and Manor of Kilberry, Bert, Clony, Shrowlan, Kileolman, Oldcourt, Tullaghgory, Preswellstown, Shanrahin, Tyrrelstown, Clonwanwyer, and Russellstown. The Meredith family lived for a long time at Shrowlan and Greenhills, in this parish. They were descended from Richard Meredith of Wales, who died in 1597. To his memory a monument was erected in St. Patrick's, but was destroyed in the next century by soldiers quartered in the Cathedral. Another monument in black marble was erected by "Richard Meredyth, of Shrowland, in ye County of Kildare" (with others), which remains to the present day.

In 1637 Sir Robert Meredith obtained for fifty pounds and one shilling, for a term of forty-nine years, a rich portion called the manor and lands of Kilberry, Castleriddy, Clony, and Clonwanir, which together with other things are mentioned at length in a paper by Adam Wilkinson about the year 1660.

At the time of the restoration, or a little before, Kilberry Vicarage was endowed with one-third of the great and small tithes of the whole parish, and likewise a small glebe of one acre.

About 1680 the Earl of Mountrath obtained a lease from Dean Worth, which reserved to the latter for the vicar two acres of glebe as formerly possessed by him, one-third of the great and small tithe, the book money, and the oblations.

In 1695 the rent reserved of Kilberry was £100 English sterling. In 1710 it was £120. After this Dean Swift increased the rent as follows:—In 1717 to £150; in 1731 to £170, and in 1741 to £200 per annum, upon each occasion with a proportionable loss of fine. “Since the death of this public spirited man,” writes William Monck Mason, the rent has been increased but £10 per annum, notwithstanding the great increase that has taken place in the value of money (A.D. 1820). In 1807 a return was made to Parliament, which set forth that the yearly value of Kilberry was but £70, not sufficient to maintain a minister. In 1814, the date of the statistical account by William Shaw Mason, there was no church of any sort in Kilberry; the population he estimated thus:—Men, 150; women, 100; children, 200. The divisions of the parish are given as, eighteen townlands, about five miles in length, and three and a-half in breadth. In 1820 were written apparently the latest accounts of Kilberry by W. M. Mason, already quoted.

The present ruins, though covering a somewhat extensive area, may be briefly described:—1. Kilberry Castle—a long east wall, nearly 60 yards long, of irregular height, in one place reaching nearly to 50 feet high, and capped with ivy. Towards the middle of the wall is a large archway, built of small flat stones, similar to those seen at Churchtown and many of the ruins in the country around. The archway is filled with masonry of apparently the same style as the castle. 2. Some hundreds of yards away, isolated in a large field, are the ruins of Castle Reedy. The name, no doubt, is from the family of Le Rede, who held the place in the fourteenth century. These ruins are in a totally disrupted state, only two walls remain standing—one of these at an unsafe angle sustained by the friendly-embracing ivy. Huge blocks of grouted masonry lie scattered around tumbled down and about from their upright position—one of which is perforated by a staircase. Some twenty-two years ago the foundations were dug under in a search for money. It is said that fear made the searchers desist; and they filled up again their excavations, but in doing so they buried some beautifully cut stones.

Of the ancient Abbey scarcely any part remains standing.

Of the old church the south wall and the two gables partially remain; the north side fell in some years since. This old church was about 30 yards long. One high, narrow window was in the west gable. In the south side there were three windows, high and narrow; and a *doorway near the west end* which, according to Mr. W. F. Wakeman, is a sign of antiquity.

The church seems to have been built about the same time as the castles.

A rectangular tower of considerable height is standing still on the north-east corner of the old church ruins. The tower is pierced with port-holes, and to admit the light there were very small openings, much splayed inwards.

It may be added that between the ruins and the river Barrow, which flows close by, there were formerly two beautiful spring wells.

At the beginning of this century the historian records there were several fine seats or residences in the parish of Kilberry, besides the noble and palatial residence at Bert:—Barrowford, the seat of Benjamin Braddell, Esq.; Belview, the seat of Robert Drought, Esq.; Salisbury, then the seat of Captain Lawler; Shrowlan, the seat of E. Pilsworth, Esq.; and Geraldine, the residence of Colonel Fitzgerald, Sovereign of Athy in 1833.

*ST. JOHN'S FRIARY, ATHY.\**

By T. J. HANNON.

ST. JOHN'S, that portion of Athy which has fallen to me briefly to describe, does not look very presentable now, its glories having somewhat departed with the lapse of years, but it had its part in local history. In 1253 the Order of Crouched Friars, or Friars of the Holy Cross, was founded here by Richard of St. Michael, Lord of Kheban. The designation came from an embroidered cross worn on the habit by the members. This monastery, with another which was founded at the east side of the river by the Dominican Order about the same period, originated, it is believed, the town at the important pass or ford of Athy, which locality figured in many of the ancient strifes chronicled by the "Annals of the Four Masters" and others.

Some of the remaining walls of St. John's churchyard, it is probable, belonged to the old abbey. The precincts of the monastery extended over St. John's and the vicinity, which was at one time a much more important part of the town than it appears at present. At the dissolution of the monasteries, 1575, the Priory of St. John's and its appurtenances were granted to Anthony Power. The lands subsequently reverted to the Crown, and were granted by Act of Parliament to Mary, daughter of Robert King, and wife of Sir William Meredith, of Green Hills, county Kildare. This refers to Green Hills, where the schools of the Christian Brothers are located just adjacent. There is a monument to one of the same Meredith family in St. Patrick's, Dublin.

In ancient documents the mills and fisheries were mentioned as belonging to the monasteries. By the Patent rolls of Richard II. two weirs and fisheries in the waters of the Barrow were granted to Robert, Prior of Athy. In 1347 there was a dispute about the possession of some fish, and a fine of 100s. was imposed for loss and damage. I may here mention there was another mill formerly at the east side of the river as well as that at this west side now existing, and in one portion of which latter there are many traces of great age. The Rev. Fr. Carroll, in his Paper on White's Castle, pointed out an inscription with

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\* Read, September 15, 1892.

regard to the mill of O'Kelly and the reign of Elizabeth. That slab, I presume, referred to the mill at the east side near to the garden of White's Castle. Mr. Arthur Furney was the last in ownership in the early part of this century. From the two large religious buildings anciently standing in the locality, a name was given in Irish to signify the town of two houses, "Blatheagh," pronounced Blahae. As to the Abbey at the east side of the river we have the names Abbey and Abbeylands still remaining. About the year 1860 an ancient gateway at the southern end of the town was taken down. A writer in the *Anthologia Hibernica* of 1793 says the name of Preston's Gate, by which it was known, is a corruption, and instead of being so called from the retreat of General Preston through it towards Carlow in 1648, as generally asserted, it was the postern gate of that monastery. In 1309, Lord John Bonneville, slain at Ardscull by Sir Anthony Power and his followers, was buried in the church of the Abbey of St. John's, Athy. The oldest date observable in the churchyard is November, 1635, on a slab in raised lettering, bearing the name "William Watson."

In the dwelling-house of St. John's, Mr. Butler, the last of the sovereigns or town magistrates, resided. In St. Michael's there is a monument to Mr. George King, on which it is stated that he was for many years another of the town sovereigns. They held rule of justice under a charter granted to the town in 1613.



*THE EUSTACES OF CO. KILDARE.\**

By THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.

I WOULD set before this Society briefly to-day, not the whole history of the ancient family of Eustace—such a task would far exceed the limits of time assigned me—but a brief sketch of its most eminent members, showing the important part they bore in the public life of the country for several centuries till, owing to the facts of our country's history known to everyone, they, like not only leading families of the old Irish of these parts as the O'Conors Faly and O'Mores, but also of the Sengail, or old strangers, as our historians style the first Anglo-Irish settlers, the Berminghams and Suttons, have passed away, and the castles and broad lands which once were theirs know them no more.

Of this noble and historic name, says Burke, five have been Lord Chancellors, two Lord Deputies, and one Lord High Treasurer of Ireland: a proud record surely, the like of which few families can lay claim to, and one well worthy of our inquiry.

It is not easy to find who the first ancestor of this family was, or whence he came. The name, I will remark in passing, is written FitzEustace and Eustace; in earlier times the first was used, in later times the latter form exclusively. I have read that he was a relative of Maurice Fitzgerald, the founder of the Leinster family. But nothing further is stated so far as I know, that would enable us to determine the degree of relationship or even its existence accurately. De Burgo, who published his work in 1762, which, though printed at Kilkenny, bears the imprint of Cologne on its title-page—the times when he wrote being full of danger for writers—though he was not professedly a genealogist, yet gives much very curious information, especially in reference to his own and other Anglo-Norman families with which his was connected. When giving the history of the Dominican Convent of Naas, founded by the FitzEustaces about the middle of the fourteenth century, he goes on to speak of the founder of the family:—"The tradition of the place," he

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\* Read, January 27, 1892.

says, "and of this famous (laudatæ) family is, that the church was dedicated to St. Eustachius, the Roman martyr, whose feast is celebrated on the 20th of September, from whom the Eustaces, in the vernacular FitzEustace, both of England and Ireland, descend in a direct line, as is proved from history, books of genealogy, and other monuments, and specially from the inscription in our church of St. Sixtus, in Rome. In the middle of the pavement of the church is a marble monument bearing the arms of the Irish family of Eustace and the following inscription:—

D. O. M.

Hic Jacet R.D. Jacobus Eustachius, *alias* FitzEustace, sacerdos, ex familiâ sancti Eustachii Romani Martyris, in Hibernia a sexcentis circiter annis stabilita. Obiit v. Februarii, MDCCXII.

"The family," continues De Burgo, "came into England in the time of the Saxon Kings, and passed into Ireland with Henry II. It has spread into several branches, some of whom held a place among the leading men of the kingdom, as Viscount Baltinglass, in Wicklow, and the Baron of Portlester, now deceased. In the county of Dublin there were two families of them, of Dowdingstown and of Ballymore-Eustace. The leading family of the name in Kildare was that of Castlemartin, which has been deprived of its castle and lands by the calamities of the times." So far De Burgo. Sir Bernard Burke, in his "Extinct Peerages," says the founder was John FitzEustace, a Norman Lord, who came to Ireland with Henry II. But he gives no authority for this assertion. Mr. Hore, in the "Kilkenny Arch. Journal" for 1866, puts forward as an opinion that they are the same family as the Poers; this he deduces from their war-cry, "Poerach aboo." The arms of the family, a saltire, would connect them with the Fitzgeralds, while the motto, *Quid me persequeris*, would rather point to the Eustaces, if, indeed, any conclusion worth mentioning can be deduced from it. I am aware that Campian and Carew say the family is descended from Robert le Powere; but in such matters their authority is of very little weight. Keating, too, is of this opinion, though he gives a statement of a certain Maolin O'Bruody, that they are descended from Donough, son of Brian Boromhe. All this goes to show that it is anything but certain who was the founder of this family.

There is a well-known Norman poem, the author of which is commonly supposed to be Maurice Regan, secretary of Dermot Mac Murrough. It has been republished lately by Mr. Orpen,

with a translation and notes. In that we find the names of all the first settlers, of the lands they settled in, and of the Irish tribes and chiefs whom they dispossessed. If Eustace or Fitz-Eustace was one of those, we might fairly expect to find his name set down there; but it is not. Nor is it given in the appendix by Carew, containing the names of the English and Welsh adventurers during the first sixteen years of the invasion. Yet, strange to say, we find one of the name, the first of the family known in our history, settled at and owner of Castle-martin so early as 1200. He was then styled Baron of Castle-martin. Baronies, however, and other titles of nobility were not so strictly determined as in later times. It has been said that he got these lands from the Baron of Offaly, a very probable statement, for it is not easy to conceive how he could have settled otherwise than by peaceful means in the very heart and choicest portion of the lands then held by Maurice Fitzgerald. Soon after, we find these Eustaces in possession of Kilcullen and Harristown. A writer in the "Kilkenny Archæological Journal" says the Eustaces got through an heiress the estates of Philip Brett, who held the third part of the barony of Naas.

The name of Ballymore has long been intimately connected with that of the Eustaces. In very remote times the manor belonged to the Archbishop of Dublin. He had a castle built there to protect his lands and tenants from the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles in the neighbouring Wicklow hills, which, remember, was not their original home, but the level plains of north and east Kildare, and of course, and most naturally, they looked on those who had seized on their lands as intruders, to put it mildly, even though those who held their lands were Archbishops, more especially if the Archbishop was an Englishman, as happened then. So as early as 1373 we find Thomas, son of Almaric FitzEustace, appointed by Thomas, Lord Archbishop of Dublin, constable of the Castle of Ballymore, with a salary of £10 per annum, provided he resided there with his family. By an Act of the Parliament held in Drogheda in 1468, "the office of castellan should not be entrusted to the Irish. Hence we learn that the Archbishop of Dublin being seized in right of his see of the manor of Ballymore, among the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, Irish enemies, did of ancient times make constables thereof for life or at will, which constables did keep their residence there continually, and especially in time of war, and Richard Talbot, brother of Lord Furnival, Archbishop of Dublin, did by the assent of his chapter constitute Sir Richard FitzEustace constable thereof. The said Richard died, and his son and heir Robert occupied the same office, but did not make

his residence there, but made a sub-constable, one Laurence O'Rogan, an Irishman both by father and mother, who would by nature discover the secrets of the English. Also said Robert FitzEustace lodged his sheep in the vaults of the said castle, and distrained the great tenants and burgesses of the same under colour of the said rent-charge. Therefore, at the petition of Michael, Archbishop of Dublin, it was enacted that the said Robert be compelled to keep a sufficient company of Englishmen, and no Irish, to guard said castle. And if said Robert put any Irishman not having his charter of liberty to ward the said castle, that then it shall be lawful for the said Archbishop to turn said Richard out of said castle, and to give the said office to any one for life or years." That, I conceive, is the origin of the name Ballymore-Eustace.

In 1420 John Eustace, of Newland, and Walerian Eustace were commissioned to inquire into the state of Kildare.

In 1426 Sir Richard FitzEustace was appointed Lord Chancellor. He held the office for a very short time only, but for ten years after he was Deputy Chancellor.

In 1431 Edward FitzEustace, knight, was Sheriff of Kildare, and soon after he was appointed a Privy Councillor, when he was selected to go over and advise the King about the condition of Ireland.

In the reign of Henry VI. the Duke of York was made Lord Lieutenant. In 1452 he went to England to answer the many accusations made against him, the chief being his design of raising an army in Ireland to dethrone the King. The Earl of Ormonde was appointed his deputy, but he died soon after, and the administration devolved on Sir Edward FitzEustace, a warlike knight, fitted for a government which required activity and vigour. The absence of the Duke of York and the death of the Earl of Ormonde encouraged the native Irish to make incursions into several parts of the pale. O'Connor Faly had alarmed the Deputy by an incursion into the heart of Kildare. He was surprised by FitzEustace, and his troops put to the rout. The chief endeavouring to escape fell from his horse. His son, who accompanied him, stopped and placed him on his horse. The father fell a second time. A grievous contest arose between the father and the son, which of them should be left to the mercy of the enemy. The youth pressed his father to take his horse and leave him to his fate, and to seize the present moment of providing for his own safety. The father obstinately refused, commanded his son to fly, and was soon made prisoner. But, as it was shown that he had taken arms merely for the sake of preying, not with any

deliberate purpose of opposing the English Government, he was released unharmed.

In 1462 George, Duke of Clarence, who was then Viceroy, appointed Sir Rowland FitzEustace as his Deputy. Sir Rowland was accused of traitorous acts in reference to the assumption of the kingly authority by the Earl of Desmond, when Tiptoft, Earl of Worcester, was Viceroy. An attempt was made to substantiate the charge. On the execution of the Earl of Desmond Sir Rowland was arraigned before the Viceroy by Sir John Gilbert for having incited the Earl of Desmond to assume the kingship of Ireland, and for engaging that he and all the land would accept him in preference to Edward IV. FitzEustace denied the charge indignantly; and when the day to bring forward his proofs came, Gilbert did not appear. Fearing the consequences of his false accusation, he withdrew beyond the reach of FitzEustace's just wrath, and joined the O'Conors in making war on the Deputy. The result was that he was attainted as a traitor by the very Parliament which acquitted FitzEustace of treason. Sir Rowland married a daughter of Jenico D'Artois, ancestor of the Gormanstown family, and he took his title of Portlester from the manor and castle of Portlester, which he acquired through her. Portlester is near Trim. In 1643 the second Viscount Drogheda, commonly known as Lord Moore, ancestor of the Marquis of Drogheda, was killed by a cannon ball fired from this castle by a party of Owen Roe O'Neill's men, who held it against the Parliamentarians. This gave rise to the following *jeu-de-mots* :—

Contra Romanos mores, res mira! dynasta  
Morus ab Eugenio canonizatus erat.

He was appointed Treasurer of Ireland, an office which he held for many years. He received the additional dignity of the custody of the Great Seal in 1474, when his son-in-law, the Earl of Kildare, was Deputy to the Duke of Clarence. Charges were made against him in his capacity of Treasurer. These failing in proof, he was reinstated in his office of Treasurer, but the King transferred the Chancery from him to Sherwood, Bishop of Meath.

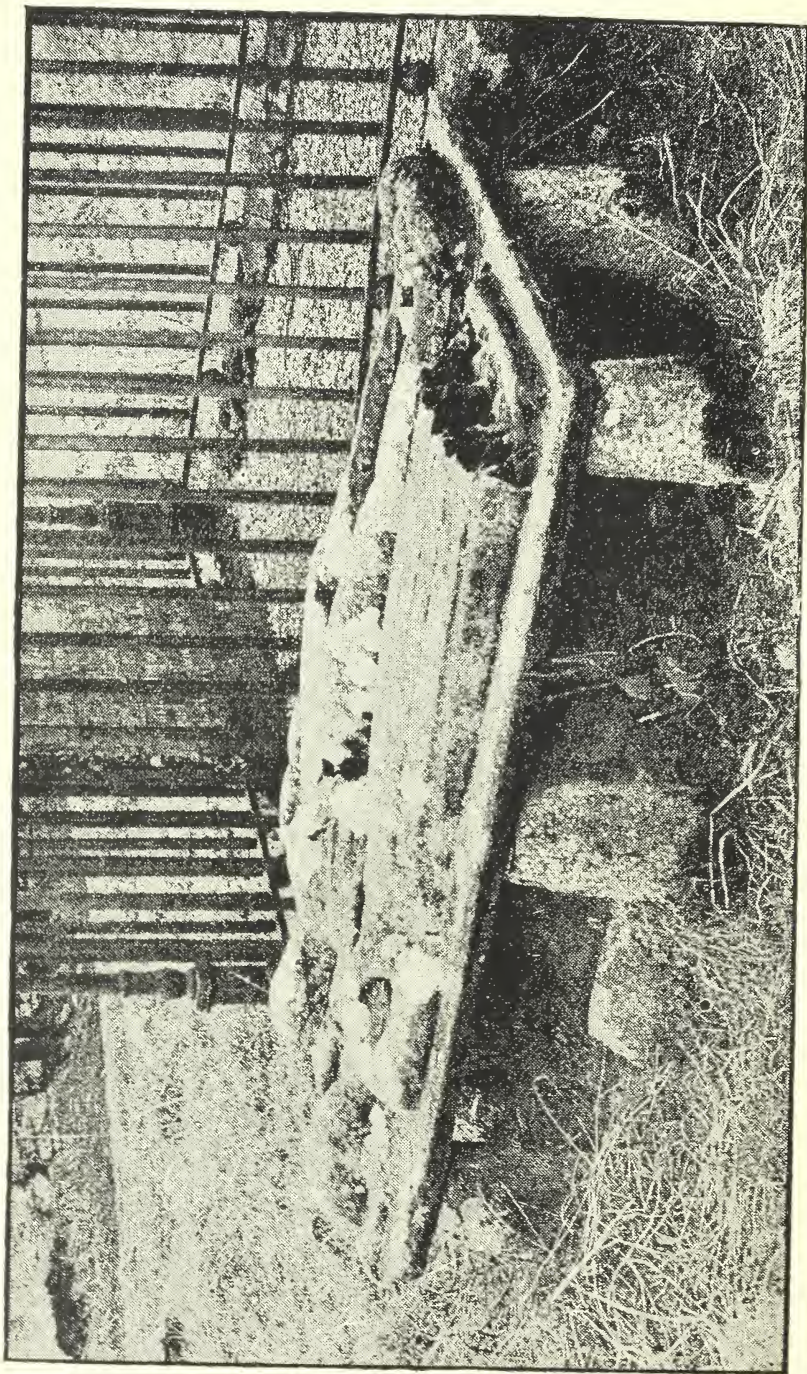
Sir Rowland refused to deliver up the Great Seal to his successor. The King in a mandment to be showed to Sir Rowland Eustace, Knight, declared "that he should deliver up the Great Seal, being under keeping, unto the said Bishop of Myth, whom he hath deputed and made his Chancellor of his said land in Ireland." The King authorized Lord Grey to have a Great Seal made for Ireland, and to damn, annul, and suspend that in

the hands of Sir Rowland FitzEustace, should the latter disobey his commands, absent himself, or hold the Seal in his custody; the Parliament enacted that all patents, writs, and other documents issued under it should be void until it came into the hands of the Deputy; and Thomas Archbold, Master of the King's Mints in Ireland, was authorized to engrave a new seal as near the other as may be in pattern and fabric, with the difference of a rose in every part, to be reputed and taken as the Great Seal of the King of England for Ireland until the other had been restored to the Deputy.

In the year 1472, the 12th of Edward IV., an Act of Parliament was passed to this effect:—"That there should be a fraternity of arms of the number of thirteen persons, of the most honourable and faithfully disposed in the counties of Kildare, Dublin, Meath, and Louth, viz. three out of each county and four from Meath, that is to say, Thomas, Earl of Kildare; Rowland Eustace, Lord of Portlester; Sir Rowland Eustace, Knight for the county of Kildare; Robert, Lord of Howth; the Mayor of Dublin for the time being; and Sir Robert Dowdal, Knight for the county of Dublin; the Lord Gormanstown; Edward Plunkett, Senechal of Meath; Alexander Plunkett, Esq., and Barnaby Barnwall, Esq., for the county of Meath; and the Mayor of Drogheda; Sir Laurence Taaffe, Knight; and Richard Bellew, Esq., for the county Louth; and that they and their successors should yearly assemble at Dublin on St. George's Day, and there choose one of them to be Captain for the next year. The which Captain and Brethren should be created a Society, by the name of the Captain and Brethren at Arms. The Captain should have a hundred and twenty archers on horseback, at sixpence a-day for meat, drink, and wages; and forty horsemen and forty pages at five pence a-day for him and his page; and four marks per annum wages. The Captain and Brethren and their successors to support this charge should have twelve pence per pound out of all the merchandize sold in Ireland, whether it is imported or exported, except hides and the goods of the freemen of Drogheda and Dublin; and the mayors of Dublin and Drogheda to be receivers of the said poundage. The fraternity shall have power to make laws for the good governance of the Society, and to elect a new brother in the place of any deceasing, and the Captain shall have authority to apprehend all outlawed rebels, and others that will not be justified by law."

In 1486 appeared the impostor Lambert Simnel, personating the Earl of Warwick, only son of George, Duke of Clarence;





THE EUSTACE MONUMENT, KILCULLEN.



for which Duke (being their countryman born) the Irish had a wonderful respect. "So eager," says Cox, "were the people to follow the fortunes of this mock-king, that Thomas Fitzgerald resigned the Chancellorship to the Lord of Portlester, the better to be at liberty, and they went together to England." Every schoolboy knows the pretender's defeat at Stoke, and his ignoble ending afterwards as one of the king's falconers. Sir Richard Edgecombe was sent over to Ireland as the King's Commissioner. In the great hall of the monastery of Thomas-court the former supporters of the impostor received pardon, and swore allegiance to the King. Amongst them was the Earl of Kildare, round whose neck the Commissioner put a gold chain, which the King had sent him as a present to signify his Majesty's entire reconciliation with him. The like oaths were taken by Rowland Eustace, Lord Portlester, Viscount Gormanstown, the Barons of Howth, Slane, and Trimleston, &c., and then Sir Richard entertained them at a splendid banquet at his lodgings.

He is buried in the New Abbey of Kilcullen, founded by him in 1460 for Franciscans. There is a very fine monument erected to him and his wife there. The knight wears a coat of plaited mail with vizor raised; the lady is in the costume of the time, a head-dress called a coronet bound by a fillet of gold or silver lace of needlework. The fillet is tied behind and ends in long lappels. On the breast is a cross; the dress is a close-fitting kirtle, made fast by a girdle studded with roses; the skirt is plaited round the outer edge. Surrounding the figures was the inscription in Gothic characters:—

*Orate pro anima*

*Rolandi FitzEustace de Portlester*

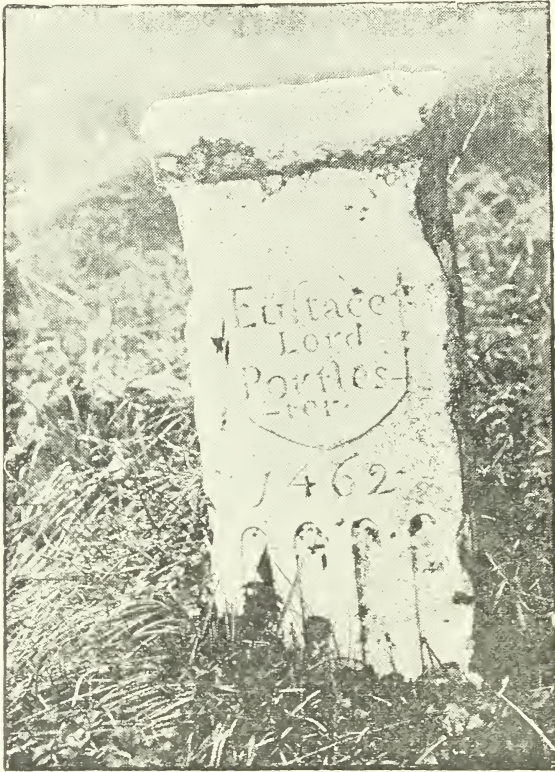
*qui hoc monasterium construxit et fundavit et qui*

*obiit die Decembris 19, A. D. 1496,*

*etiam pro anima Margarite uxoris ejus.*

The lower portion of the monument was also sculptured. On one side were three figures in three separate compartments; in the centre was an Irish peasant; the other figures represented two heralds in the dress of their office. There were figures on the opposite side, but they are now too much worn to be defined. A monk in the habit of his Order was at one end, and shields of armorial bearings surmounted by a rising sun near

the corner. Such was the monument just a century ago, as we learn from "Anthologia Hibernica," iii. 256. The print inserted here, from a photograph by Miss Manders, shows its present condition. Lord Walter Fitz Gerald tells me that one of the figures has been removed to Barrettstown Castle to save it from further injury. A Mr. Eustace, who wrote to me from



EUSTACE MONUMENT, COTLANDSTOWN.

Kilkenny, thinks it was because his grandfather, General Eustace, was obnoxious to the people in 1798, that they showed their dislike to him by injuring the family monument.

There are prints of this monument in "Anthologia Hibernica," iii. 225, and in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland." In Cotlandstown churchyard there is a column which com-

memorates the Eustaces. It is about 3 feet long, 2 feet being above the ground. The sides are about 9 inches wide. On three of them there is an inscription on raised letters, now illegible. Under the inscription there are four shields, one on each side. No. 1, "Eustace, Lord Portlester, 1462." No. 2, the arms of Lord Portlester, or a saltire gules, surmounted by a baron's coronet. No. 3, two fleurs-de-lis. No. 4, a snake



EUSTACE MONUMENT, COTLANDSTOWN.

known, more probably a double-headed eagle. The two last are probably the arms of his two wives, Elizabeth Brune and Margaret Preston. The Eustaces were living at Ballycotland in 1378. This is very probably the base of a memorial cross. The lettering would show it to be two centuries later than Lord Portlester's time.

In St. Audeon's Church, Dublin, there is a similar monument to Lord Portlester. He built the Lady Chapel when he

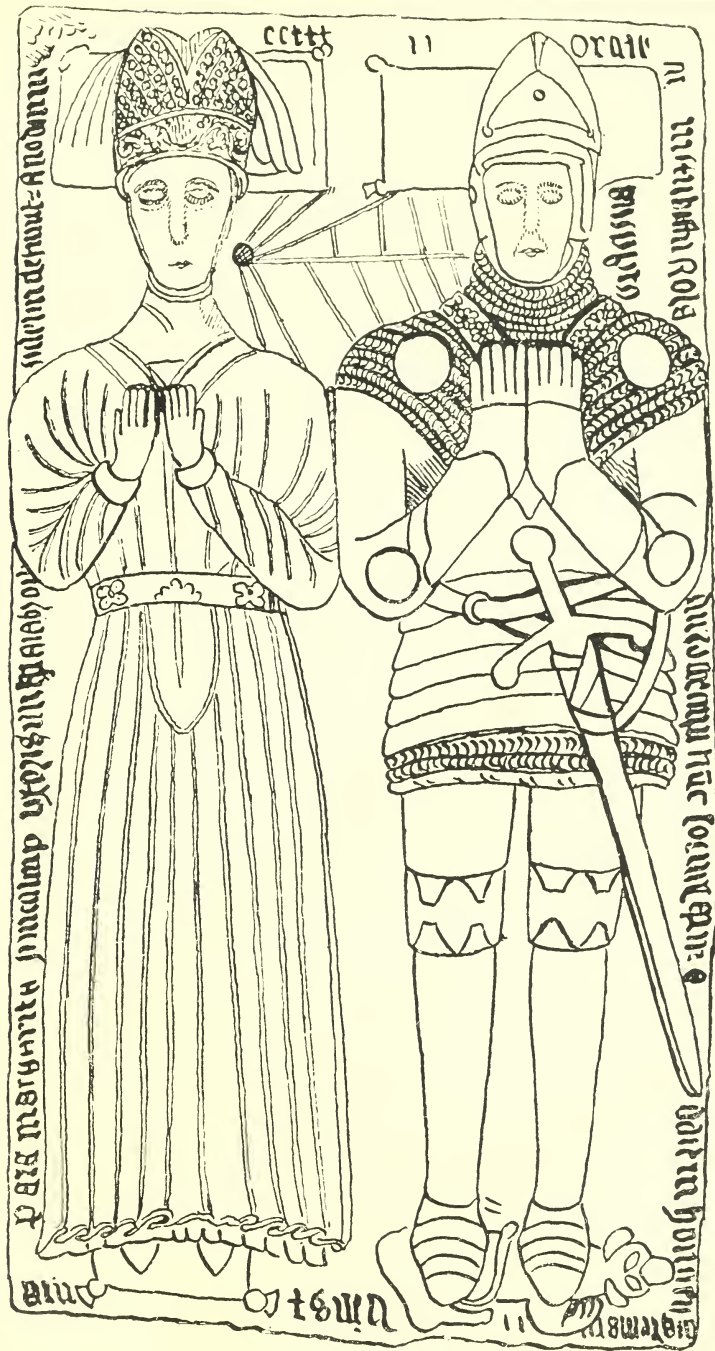
was Lord Deputy. The recumbent figures of Lord and Lady Portlester resemble closely those on the Kileullen tomb. Round the margin is the following inscription:—

Orate pro anima  
 Rolandi FitzEustace de Portlester  
 qui hunc locum sibi capellam dedit in honorem  
 Beate Virginis,  
 etiam pro anima Margarete Uxoris sue et pro  
 animabus omnium fidelium defunctorum.

This tomb has been removed from its original position, close by the eastern end of the chapel, to the porch, in order to protect it from the weather. The print inserted here is from a drawing by Mr. T. J. Westropp, to whom I beg leave to express my thanks for his kindness.

Sir Rowland had two daughters. The eldest, Alison, married Gerald, 8th Earl of Kildare. By this marriage the lands of Bright and Rosglas, in the county Down, which had been assigned by John Dongan, Bishop of Down, in 1395, to Janico d'Artois, a Gascon gentleman, one of those who attended Richard II. in his Irish wars, passed into the hands of the Kildare family, she being the granddaughter of Sir Janico. In 1808 Lord Lecale sold them to his stepfather, John Ogilvie, whose great-grandson now possesses them. She died of grief, in consequence of her husband having been imprisoned in the Tower of London. She was buried in Kileullen Abbey. Her youngest daughter married Marward, Baron of Skreen, and after his death Sir John Plunkett of Bewley. He was succeeded by his nephew, Sir Thomas, who was created Baron of Kileullen in 1541, and Viscount Baltinglass in the following year. He married Margaret, daughter of Peter Talbot of Malahide, and died in 1550. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Rowland, Baron of Kileullen, and Viscount Baltinglass. He died in 1588, and was succeeded by his son, James, 3rd Viscount Baltinglass, of whom more later.

In the State Papers in the first half of the sixteenth century mention is often made of Dame Jenet Eustace. In the *Carew Papers*, under the date February 16, 1535, Allen writes to Cromwell:—"We have in ward in the Castle of Dublin Dame Jenet Eustace, Sir Walter Delahoyde's wife, which was the Earl of Kildare's aunt, and most of secrets with him, and by



THE EUSTACE MONUMENT IN ST. AUDEON'S.



all probable conjecture she was the chief counsellor and stirrer of this inordinate rebellion. She is the traitor's foster-mother, and by her and her two sons, James and John, Thomas Eustace, who is her nephew, the same was begun and hitherto maintained and upholden." The allusion is to the rebellion of Silken Thomas. Lady Jenet was one of those whom his father, when summoned to appear before the King, recommended to the young Earl as advisers.

Several times during the reign of Philip and Mary commissions were issued to Hugh, Archbishop of Dublin; Gerald, Earl of Kildare; Roland, Viscount Baltinglass; Nicholas Eustace, Sheriff of Kildare, for the government of the counties of Kildare, Dublin, and Carlow, in the absence of the Lord Deputy.

In the 5th of Elizabeth, 1563, a commission was issued to Lord Baltinglass, Maurice FitzMaurice, John Eustace of Castlemartin, and Patrick Sarsfield, for the civil government of Co. Kildare, in the absence of the Earl of Sussex, who was about to proceed to the North to chastise O'Neill and his confederates.

The third Viscount, with several of the Leinster tribes, took up arms when Gerald, Earl of Desmond, revolted in Munster. "For the sake of his religion," says Holinshed, "he did join the Earl of Desmond, in the hope of placing Mary, Queen of Scotland, on the throne of these kingdoms." He urged the Earl of Ormonde to join them. "If the Queen's pleasure," he wrote, "be, as you allege, to minister justice, it were time to begin; for in this twenty years past of her reign we have seen more oppressing of poor subjects under pretence of justice within this land than ever we read or heard (since England first received the faith) done by Christian princes. You counsel me to remain quiet, and you will be occupied in persecuting the poor members of Christ. I wish you would learn and consider by what means your predecessors came up to be Earls of Ormonde. Truly, you should find that if Thomas Becket, Bishop of Canterbury, had never suffered death in the defence of the Church, Thomas Butler, *alias* Becket, had never been Earl of Ormonde."

In 1580 Lord Grey of Wilton came over as Lord Deputy. "Before he was sworn he had notice that one Pierce Fitzgerald (with his company, which he had in the Queen's pay), was revolted to Lord Baltinglass, and being joined with Feagh MacHugh and other rebels, had secured themselves in the fastnesses of Glendalough, in the county of Wicklow, and did daily increase both in number and mischief, he ordered a smart party

to attack them. Cosby, an experienced soldier, dissuaded the attempt; but having positive orders, the foot entered the glens, whilst Lord Grey, with the horse, scoured the plains. But the rebels, being well acquainted with these woods, laid their ambushes so cunningly that the English could neither fight in the devilish place nor retire out of it. Courage could but little avail them; whilst being mired at the bogs, they were forced to stand still like butts to be shot at. Discipline or conduct were of no use in that place, where it could not be practised; in short, the English were defeated, the whole company slain except some few that were rescued by the horsemen, and among the rest Sir Peter Carew, Colonel Moore, and the valiant captains Audeley and Cosby were killed in this unfortunate conflict."

We have in Gilbert's *Facsimiles of National MSS.* a portion of the Journal of the House of Lords, A.D. 1581. Among the Acts registered in it as having received the Royal assent from the Lord Deputy, Sir John Perrott, are those for attainting James Eustace Viscount Baltinglass and the Earl of Desmond, as well as those charged with complicity in their movements. These Acts summarily confiscated and vested in the Crown the entire properties of the persons named therein, and annulled all conveyances made by or in connexion with them during the twelve preceding years. Spenser says the statute with the retrospective clauses in relation to the Desmond confiscation was "wrought out of the Parliament with great difficulty, and were it to be passed again, I dare undertake it would never be compassed." Lord Baltinglass saved his life by flying to Spain, where he was "well used by King Philip II.," but several of those who had taken part with him in the rising were executed, as Nicholas Nugent, David Sutton, John Sutton, Thomas Eustace, John Eustace, William Wogan, Robert Sherlock, John Clinch, Thomas Netterville, and Robert Fitzgerald.

He seems to have died in Lisbon about September, 1594. In January, 1596, a spy in the pay of the English Government reported that the eldest son of Lord Baltinglass's son had died shortly before, and that the other was a priest in Rome. His estates were in 1605 granted to Sir Henry Harrington, Knight, "in regard to that he had been a very good, ancient, and long servitor in the late wars and rebellion in Ireland." They are set down as being 2667 acres in the counties of Kildare and Dublin.

Lord Baltinglass had four brothers. One of them, Edmund, was reported to have died in Spain about 1589; another, Walter, was in prison in Dublin in 1583. In the fee-book



of Dr. Arthur, published in the "Journal of the Kilkenny Archæological Society," Lady Baltinglass is mentioned among his patients. Probably she remained in this country when her husband fled to Spain; or, more probably, she was the wife of the Lord Baltinglass who was one of the Committee sent by the Irish Parliament to England to impeach the Earl of Strafford.

In the Description of Ireland in 1598, a MS. in Clongowes Wood College, among the principal men of county Kildare are five of the Eustaces, of Blackrath, Mullahose, Ballycotland, Confey, and Clongowes.

In 1596 Edward Eustace was owner of Clongowes Wood, and William Eustace in 1636.

In 1608 Oliver Eustace was constable of Blackwood, Edward Eustace of Kylmory. At the same date the following are set down as Jurors for the King:—Oliver Eustace, of Mullaghash; Maurice Eustace, of Clongowes Wood; James Eustace, of Sigginstown; Oliver Eustace, of Blackrath; Alexander, of Crookstown; Maurice, of Colbinstown; William, of Moone.

In an Inquisition on the death of James Eustace, late of Newland in the Co. Kildare, bearing date January 16th, 1613, it is stated that "he was seized in fee of the manor of Newland and of all the messuages, lands, and tenements in the town-fields of Newland, Lippiston, Osmanston, Siginston, Stonehall, Barretstown, Waterton, Yeomanston, Devinston, and Clognanston, and of and in Carnallwey, one castle and 86 acres of land, Caroghe, 12 messuages, and 140 acres of land, and one water-mill, in the aforesaid county." The subsequent portion, dated 1613, goes on to say:—"The premises in Newland and Sheltonstown were held of Viscount Gormanston by military service; in Carnallwey, of William Eustace of Castlemartin by annual rent; Lippiston and Osmonston were held of Walter Weleslie of Norragh by annual rent; Siginston and Stonehall were held of the Earl of Kildare by military service; Barretstown, Waterton, Yeomanston, Devinston, Carogh, and one water-mill, of William Sarsfield of Tully, by annual rent."

Maurice Eustace, son of William of Castlemartin, was appointed Serjeant-at-law in 1634, and elected Speaker of the House of Commons in 1638—"a wise, learned, and discreet man, and of great integrity." Charles I. appointed him one of the Commissioners to confer with the Confederate Catholics; and in 1647 the House of Commons voted him their thanks for his "singular good affection to the English nation, his public service, and his earnest advancement of the Protestant

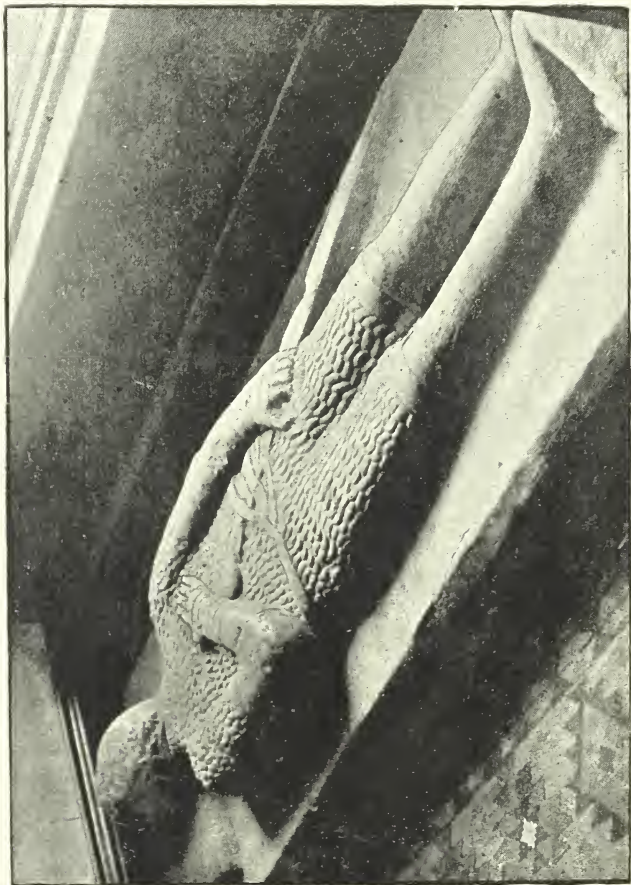
religion." In 1644 he was made Master of the Rolls, and at the Restoration he was appointed Chancellor, which office he held till his death in 1665. He was confirmed in his estates by the Act of Settlement. The present Eustace-street, Mr. Gilbert tells us, has its name from his residence and gardens having been on its site. He is buried in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The attainders of 1642 contain the names of John, son of Christopher Eustace of Baltrasna, Maurice Eustace of Castlemartin, Roland Eustace of Blackhall, and nineteen others of the name in the counties of Kildare, Wicklow, and Dublin.

In the court-book, the record of the court-marshals held in Dublin after the war, in Marsh's Library, we read under the date March 23rd, 1652: "Rowland Eustace accused of holding correspondence with and relieving the enemy; and all evidence being heard and fully debated, it was put to the question whether upon the whole question and circumstances to the Court there are not strong and pregnant presumptions that the said Rowland Eustace is guilty of the several crimes wherewith he is charged; resolved in the affirmative. 2nd, whether upon the whole matter there is sufficient evidence to proceed by judgment against Rowland Eustace or not; resolved in the negative. It was finally ordered upon the question resolved in the affirmative that the said Rowland Eustace be herewith removed with his whole family and dependents into the province of Connaught. It was also further ordered that he be released, giving security to perform the judgment of this court hereby declared, and to appear on the forty days after the notice lodged at any of his houses." On the margin is: "in Jajogstown, in the county Kildare."

The Eustaces were Jacobites. On the 25th December, 1685, Maurice FitzEustace was created a baronet by James II. Dalton says he was married to a granddaughter of the Duke of Tyrconnell. In King James's Parliament, held in 1689, there were two Eustaces, James and Maurice, who sat as members for the borough of Blessington. Maurice raised a regiment for James. Moreover, in the army of James II. we find Richard Eustace of Barrettstown, Lieutenant-Colonel in Lord Gormans-ton's regiment of infantry. Richard was a captain in Sir Neill O'Neill's dragoons, and Christopher a lieutenant in the same regiment. On May 10th the King wrote to Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, then besieging Derry, "Ten companies of Eustace's will soon be with you, all well armed and clothed." In Walker's "Account of the Siege of Derry," it is said that Lieutenant-





THE EUSTACE MONUMENT, BARRETTOWN CASTLE.

Colonel Richard Eustace was wounded in the attack on the wind-mill. He received several wounds at Aughrim also. On his arrival in France he was made colonel of one of the reformed regiments of Irish infantry. This he commanded up to 1693. It is presumed he died about this time, as King James in that year appointed a successor in command of the regiment. Of course several of the names are mentioned in the attainders of 1691, as Colonel Maurice of Castlemartin, Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Eustace of Barretstown, and others in Kildare, Carlow, and Wicklow.

By the Articles of Limerick, Maurice Eustace of Yeomanstown, and Chevers, Viscount Mount Leinster, then in foreign parts, sent thither upon the affairs of their respective regiments, should have the benefit thereof, provided they returned within eight months, submitted to William's government, and took the oath of allegiance. This will explain why Yeomanstown continued in their possession.

In 1703, James Eustace of Yeomanstown was accused of having brought over from England the manuscript of a seditious book entitled "Memoirs of King James II.," of having got it printed, and sent copies of it to Limerick, Galway, and elsewhere. He denied the charge, but it was proved against him. The book was ordered to be burnt by the common hangman. I do not know whether he suffered in any way in consequence: this is probably the same who is buried in the churchyard of Caragh. De Burgo says the Eustaces of Yeomanstown were a family highly respected in his time (1762): "*Etiam nunc floret domus de Yeomanstown Catholica religione et exemplari probitate clara.*"

By an Act of Parliament passed in 1704, called "an Act for registering the Popish Clergy," priests were obliged to register their names, places of abode, and the several parishes of which they were the parish priests. Sureties entered into recognizance for them. In the Co. Kildare we find that Maurice Eustace of Lepstown, gentleman, was surety for Nicholas Eustace, P.P. of Raharaine, Killmage, Facullen, and part of Tully and of Morristown; and also for James Eustace, P.P. of Old Connell, Ladystowne, Morristowne, and Biller.

Here is a short pedigree of the family, as given by Burke:—

EDWARD FITZEUSTACE,

↓  
Sir Rowland, Lord Fortlester, = Margaret, daughter of Jenico d'Artois.

↓  
Alison = Gerald, 8th Earl of Kildare.

On the death of Sir Rowland, says Burke, the male heir of the great house of FitzEustace was—

SIR THOMAS FITZEUSTACE, Baron of Kilcullen and Viscount Baltinglass,	}	= Margaret, daughter of Sir P. Talbot of Malahide.
Sir Rowland, 2nd Viscount Baltinglass, . . . . .	}	= Joan, daughter of Lord Dunboyne.
James FitzEustace, 3rd Baron Baltinglass, . . . . .	}	= Mary, daughter of Sir H. Travers.

It is foreign to my purpose to enter into the later history of the several branches of the family. Those who care to pursue the subject further will find a good deal of information about it in the notice of "Claimed Peerages," in Burke's "Peerage," and in the traditions which abound in this neighbourhood.

NOTES ON A RECUMBENT MONUMENTAL  
EFFIGY IN THE CHURCHYARD OF  
TIMOLIN, CO. KILDARE.\*

BY ALBERT HARTSHORNE.

THE bringing to light of a recumbent monumental effigy, long lost, hitherto unnoticed, or unrecorded, has on several occasions formed the subject of interesting historical or antiquarian dissertations. Thus, in 1842, Mr. Way published, with illustrations, in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxix, p. 202, an account of the re-discovery of the stone monumental effigy of Richard Cœur de Lion, beneath the pavement on the south side of the choir of Rouen Cathedral. This was a memorial of special interest, inasmuch as it commemorated the burial of the Lion Heart, which precious relic was discovered at the same time enclosed within two boxes of lead, the inner one lined with a leaf of silver. In 1834, Mr. A. J. Kempe, the author of the letterpress of Stothard's "Monumental Effigies," printed in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxv., p. 122, a description, with coloured illustrations, of the richly-painted effigy of John de Sheppy, Bishop of Rochester, 1352-1360, found in 1825 walled up in the cathedral; and in 1848 Professor Westmacott discovered two cross-legged military effigies, and a graceful figure of a lady, buried under the pews in Gonalston church, Nottinghamshire, and wrote an illustrated account of them in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. vi., p. 5. Other instances might be adduced.

And while the tendency of the present age is, happily, to preserve the sepulchral memorials of the past which remain within churches, such conservation is the more likely to be extended to the helpless examples which have been ejected from them in evil times, and long passed unheeded by, if their interest and historical value is also pointed out. A single illustration will suffice.

The rare effigy of a forester now sheltered in Glinton church, Northamptonshire, is said to have been cast out long ago from the neighbouring church of Northborough. Though it was exposed to the destructive influence of the weather for more

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\* Read for the author by the Hon. Secretary, January 18, 1893.

than a hundred and fifty years, and finally rescued as "a battered figure of an ecclesiastic"—a mere piece of antiquity—it was shown a few years ago, upon an examination of the details of this curious figure, that, together with the only two other effigies of foresters that have been noticed in England—namely, at Wadworth church, Yorkshire, and Newland, Gloucestershire, a complete illustration is given in stone by these monuments of the whole of the costume and weapons worn by the yeoman in the "Canterbury Pilgrimage." Moreover, these figures serve to show, not only the great care that was taken by mediæval sculptors to represent the dead man in his habits as he lived, but also the accuracy of the poet's descriptions of the costume of his time.

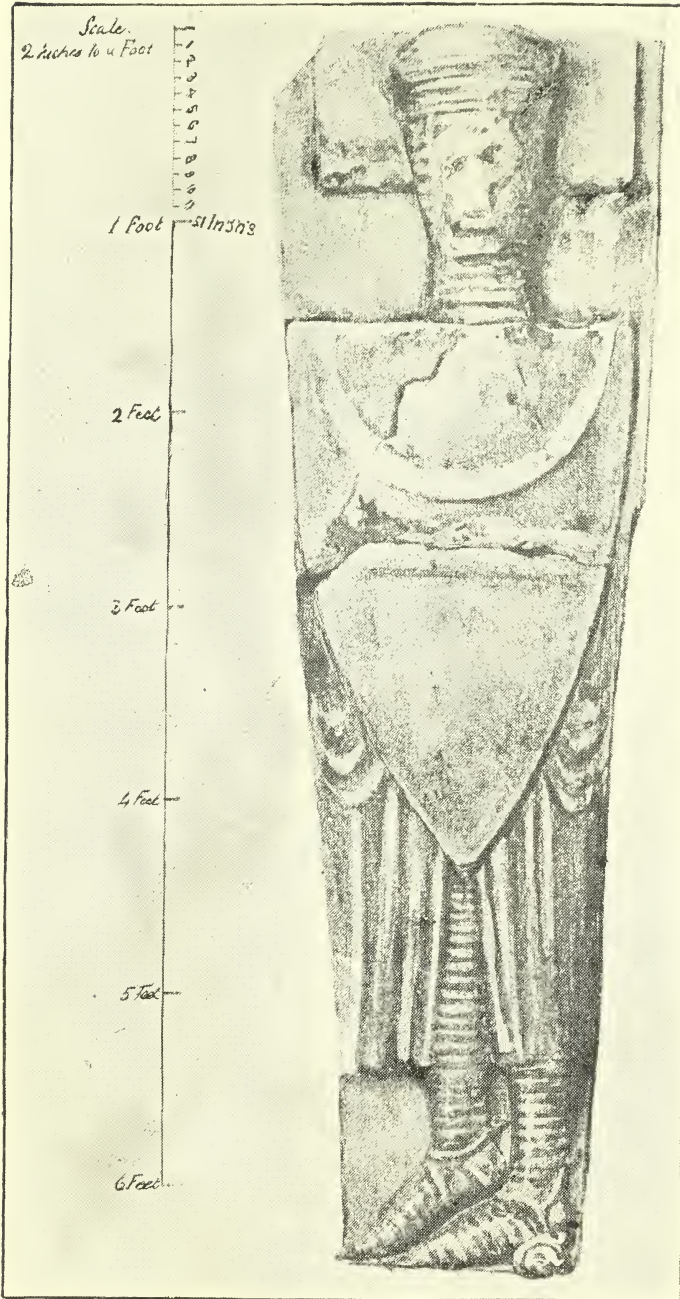
Antiquaries who have paid attention to armour are well aware how numerous are the examples of monumental effigies in England, and how comparatively rare in Ireland. The three so-called cross-legged figures of ladies, and one of a knight at Casbel; an effigy supposed to represent Strongbow in Christ Church, Dublin; one at Graigue-na-managh, and one at Kilfane—"Tall Cantwell," county Kilkenny, almost exhaust the list of monuments of this class of the early period. Of those of a later time the most notable are the memorials of members of the Butler family at Clonmel and Kilkenny, highly curious in their arming items, and showing that defensive armour of the fourteenth century in England was retained, with remarkable modifications, in Ireland up to the middle of the sixteenth century. Irish monuments of this period would well repay the trouble of thorough investigation and illustration, such as has been given to those in England.

At the present moment we are concerned only with a monument of the early period, and it is the more important because it appears to be the oldest military monumental effigy in Ireland to which attention has been directed.

Under a yew-tree in the churchyard of Timolin, county Kildare, lies an effigy in carboniferous limestone, a finely crystalline rock, which is very common in Kildare and the counties adjacent. It is sculptured in somewhat low relief, upon a slab 6 feet 5 inches long, narrowing to the feet, and, no doubt, originally forming the lid of a coffin after the early custom of pavement burial. A man is represented in a hauberk with continuous coif covering the crown of the head in diminishing circles of mail, an invariable characteristic of early military effigies, a scanty surcote, chausses of mail, and prick spurs. A ponderous shield covers the body and arms. Each of these features bespeaks the ancient character of this memorial.



(For "Scale, 2 inches to a foot," read "Scale, 1 inch to a foot.")



MONUMENT IN TIMOLIN CHURCHYARD, CO. KILDARE.



The coif continuous with the hauberk is to be found as early as in the Bayeux Tapestry; it remained in general use up to the middle of the twelfth century, and was overlapped and finally supplanted by the separate mail hood. The early surcote, like that now under notice, was scanty in the skirt, and practicable compared with those of the fourteenth century with their voluminous folds, when men suddenly called upon to fight on foot got their legs entangled in the ample draperies, and fell an easy prey to the enemy. The mail of the chausses is of large size and characteristic, like the treatment and style of the prick spurs, of the sculpture of the extreme end of the twelfth century, the period to which the effigy must be attributed. It will be noticed that the mail hood takes its particular shape on the head from the iron skull-cap worn under it. This arrangement was the immediate successor of the conical helmets which had been in use since the Conquest, such as may be seen in their latest forms with or without a nasal respectively, in the first and second great seals of Henry II. The great seal of John shows a head-piece like that in the Timolin effigy. Its precise period can, therefore, be ascertained from the form of the head-piece alone. As to the shield, it is of the very interesting transition period when fanciful devices were changing into heraldry with definite hereditary charges. The devices are too crude and early to surrender with readiness to the scientific description of a herald. The narrow bar and semicircle are, perhaps, mere survivals of the strengthening bands of shields of a more remote period. Whether these features—these early dawnings of heraldry—developed later into the distinctive bearings of a family we have at present no evidence to show, nor, indeed, any clue as to who is represented by this very interesting figure.

In 1845, Mr. G. DuNoyer published in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. ii., p. 129, a curious paper on the cross-legged effigies at Cashel, including among them three figures of ladies in long robes, as to which the engravings given are by no means convincing. But Mr. DuNoyer raised an interesting and very legitimate question as to whether these monuments, and others of the same period and character in Ireland, are the work not of Irish, but of English artists. Strangely enough, he omits to give any information as to the nature of the stone or marble used for the Cashel figures, which would at once have cleared up the point; but he settles off-hand that such memorials were the work of English sculptors.

It is well known that the greater part of the thirteenth century effigies in England are carved in Purbeck, or in Sussex marble, secondary fresh-water limestones; those in the Temple

church are sufficient evidence in support of this statement. Forest marble, an oolitic shelly rock, which came later into use, is quite a different material that was much employed in England in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. None of these stones can possibly be mistaken for Irish limestone.

The imaginative and gifted sons of Erin who worked so beautifully in the noble metals, and brought the decorative arts to the highest pitch in early days, are not likely to have overlooked the admirable limestone of their everlasting hills, or shrunk from the task of fashioning a block of it to the likeness of one of their chieftains in his harness, a powerful opponent, or, haply, an ally of Strongbow. With such a stone at hand and such artistic capacities why, indeed, should they have turned to England?

Thus a monument such as that at Timolin becomes more than a mere memorial of a person of distinction in Leinster in old days. It is a local text, raising thoughts which might with advantage be followed out, upon the state of the native monumental sculpture in those fateful times, and its gradual growth and progress, precisely as in France and England. The remarkable details of armour and costume exhibited by Irish effigies, and to which so little attention has been paid, should form materials for a most interesting and picturesque volume—should furnish for Ireland what the elucidation of English effigies under the hand of Stothard has done for art in England.

Fortunately for students of armour the effigy at Timolin has not been buried, and remained beneath a pavement, walled-up out of sight, or hidden under pews. And fortunately for antiquaries its details have withstood the onslaughts of a treacherous climate, while it is surely a matter of good omen that in consequence of the formation of the County Kildare Archeological Society attention has been so soon called to a military figure in the county of so remarkable a character. Finally, a stranger may venture to express a hope that, as in the case of the Northamptonshire Forester, the effigy of the Kildare knight may be rescued from its melancholy surroundings, and removed to a place of greater security, where its valuable details will be alike protected from the weather and available for study.

ON THE ART-TREATMENT OF THE HERALDIC  
MOTTO-ESCROLL.

By JOHN VINYCOMB, M. R. I. A.

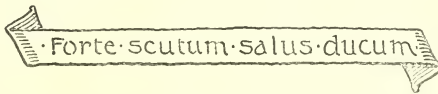
“First on the blazon Scroll of Fame.”—CAMPBELL.

**E**SCROLL, or Scroll, as the ribbon containing the motto is termed, is usually placed beneath the shield of arms, but sometimes, especially in Scottish heraldry, above the crest. It represents a scroll, or strip of vellum, and as such it has become conventionally treated in herald painting with the ends curled in various ways, sometimes split and tapered to



points, and curled in more or less involved folds, imitating the natural tendency of stripes of parchment to curl on exposure to a warm atmosphere.

The colour of the ribbon, or scroll is usually white, or vellum colour shaded with pink; but a more natural repre-



sentation of the colour and shading of a vellum scroll is quite in keeping with true heraldic feeling. The legend or motto is to be inscribed either in black-letter, or in Roman characters:



the latter is most usual in modern heraldry. We sometimes find the escroll represented as a fluttering ribband of some light material, and of various colours. Some writers hold that the scroll

may be tintured of the livery colours ; this, however, does not accord with the traditional ideal of the escroll of enduring vellum, inscribed in permanent characters with the motto, as the sentiment or moral platform on which the bearer takes his stand.

The motto is sometimes altogether wanting, particularly in ancient coats, not being considered strictly hereditary like the arms ; frequently of a temporary character, and changeable at pleasure. For this reason probably it was not always introduced into permanent works.

In the mediæval treatment of a coat-of-arms, as seen in stained glass and early illuminations, it is not unusual to find the ribbon-like scroll, when introduced at all, assume the most varied shapes and positions : sometimes it is perfectly flat, or with flattened folds ; sometimes it is elaborately involved amidst the folds of the mantling at one or both sides of the shield ; at other times it is unobtrusively introduced at any part capable of containing it. No hard-and-fast line seems to be laid down on the subject ; modern custom, however, prefers to place it near the base of the escutcheon.

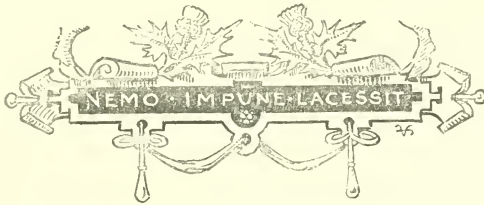


The fashion of resting the shield and supporters upon the edge of an escroll, or small bits of flimsy and disjointed ornament from which the escroll is made to hang, is an anomaly which seems to have originated from the custom of representing heraldic insignia and devices upon seals and coins, placing them like charges upon the field, with the motto-scroll beneath the shield.

A coat-of-arms with supporters, if painted to appear standing against the sky, or upon a coloured background, should have a natural and material support, as a base upon which the whole achievement may rest. The present age demands consistency even in heraldic art. There can be no just grounds for perpetuating such a manifest absurdity, as is frequently seen, of large and unwieldy supporters, painted to the life, or in heraldic tinctures, standing upon the thin edge of a parchment scroll. The good sense of the Scottish heralds at an early period led them to avoid this incongruity ; and for a base on which the coat-of-arms should rest, or be supported, they introduced what is now termed "The Compartment."

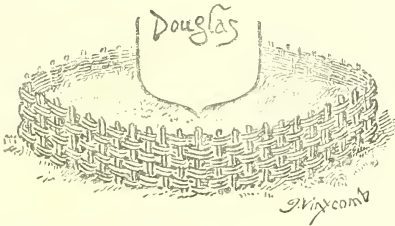
Compartment, a term peculiar to the heraldry of Scotland, used instead of an escroll, is a kind of a carved panel, or

compartment, placed below the shield. It frequently bears the motto, and the supporters stand upon it. It has no fixed form, but may be varied at pleasure. An old Scottish peerage (1826), blazoning the royal arms of that kingdom, refers to the supporters, "both standing upon a compartment from which issue two thistles, one towards each side of the escutcheon: for the sovereign's motto, in a scroll above all (*i. e.* over the crest) IN



DEFENSE; and under, in the table of the compartment, NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT."

Instead of a motto in the compartment devices are frequently borne, having reference to some incident in the family history, which is commemorated in this way. Thus the Earl of Perth bears under the shield a compartment or mound, with caltraps thereon for Bannockburn, and the scroll and motto above the crest. James VII., Lord Douglas (the good Sir James), the friend and companion of Bruce, whose heart he bore to the Holy Land, had added to his arms "a noble compartment of a wreath of stakes, because he wreathed in the English in



WREATHED SIMILAR TO A WEIR, OFTEN REPRESENTED AS PARK PALES.

the Forest of Jedburgh, that they should not escape, and there defeated them, A.D. 1313." Robertson of Struan, Co. Perth, bears a compartment also of historic interest. Duncan, son of Robert, chief of the clan, having with great courage and intrepidity arrested the murderers of King James I. of Scotland, James II., in commemoration of the event, granted to his family for crest a hand supporting the regal crown, and as an

honourable augmentation, a wild man in chains beneath the arms for a compartment, and the motto "Virtutis gloria merces."

Cartouche (F. *carto*), a term adopted from the French for a tablet or panel, either for ornament or to receive an inscription, formed to resemble a sheet of paper or parchment cut at the margins, and with the separated edges curled in various directions as if with heat. The oval escutcheon used by Popes and other ecclesiastics is termed a cartouche; narrow bands, similarly cut and curled at the extremities, are frequently used to contain the motto, and on which the supporters may rest, as the compartment of Scottish heraldry.



in other varieties of renaissance ornamentation, being chiefly composed of straps and bands, often fantastically cut and curled.

Our word panel is similarly derived from the French *panneau*, i. e. *pan de peau* = piece of skin. Empanel or in-panel is to write the names of a jury on a *panel*, or piece of parchment, &c.

Ralph N. Wornum, in his lectures on "Ornamental Styles," referring to the period of the renaissance, says:—"In this style we have the first appearance of cartouches or scroll shield-work, which became so very prominent in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. One of the oldest examples is the watergate of the ducal palace of Venice of the middle of the fifteenth century: it suggests the idea of the imitation of a sealed parchment or MS. illumination. This kind of decoration [he adds] certainly seems in some way connected with heraldry; many of its forms are palpably merely armorial shields, which became very common in architectural decoration of a later period; and the fact of such forms being afterwards used as mere elements of ornament does not invalidate such an origin."

Album (L. *album* = white).—The name now given to a blank book for scraps, was by the Romans applied to certain tables overlaid with gypsum, on which were inscribed with a stylus the annals of the chief priests, the edicts of the praetors, and rules relating to civil matters. In the Middle Ages "Album" was the general name for a register or list—as, a

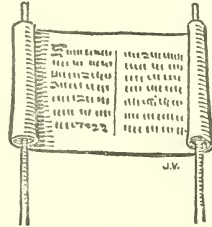


register of saints, a muster roll of soldiers; it was so called from being kept on a white board. Notice boards in churches, and the boards in universities containing the names of college men, are called albums. The classic album, so constantly seen in Roman and renaissance ornamentation, was of the form



noted above. It seems to be the prototype of the renaissance, Flemish, or Elizabethan cartouche, to contain the legend or inscription, and served a similar purpose.

The books of the ancients were termed "rolls" or "volumes," from the Latin *volvere*, to roll. They were usually made from the skins of beasts, dressed and prepared for the purpose of writing; the leaves of the palm-tree, or mallow. The Egyptian papyrus, a kind of water bulrush, however, became of most general use in Egypt (Alexandria) from the time of Alexander the Great. The papyrus was called by the Egyptians by the name *Biblos*, a word adopted by the Greeks; *liber*, denoting in Latin the rhind of a tree, was afterwards employed to designate a book. Rolls, formed by a number of pieces glued or pasted together end to end, were usually written upon one side only, a round stick at each end serving to hold the volume, and for winding and unwinding it while being read. Scrolls of this kind, from their tendency to suddenly roll together, seem to be referred to in Isaiah, xxxiv. 4: — "The heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll," and in a similar passage in Rev. vi. 14.



Gulielmus Durandus, a famous liturgist, asserts that in early Christian art the roll was placed in the hands of Old Testament prophets, because they saw the Truth but imperfectly, and through the veil of metaphor, while the Apostles, to whom the Truth was fully revealed, carried books. "This idea, however," says M. Didron ("Iconography of Christian Art"), "seems to have been very inconsistently adhered to, as there exist many exceptions to the fact, and many Apostles, and even Evangelists, hold scrolls, while prophets, on the contrary, have large books."

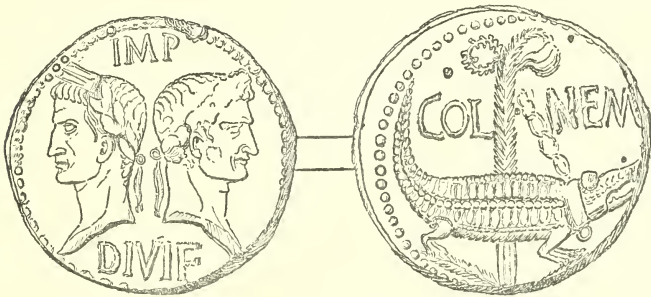
Angels bearing scrolls, conveying as it were some divine message, frequently appear in Christian art. In the sculptures, paintings, stained glass, and early illuminations, scrolls proceed from the mouths of saints, and martyrs, and other sacred legendary figures, who may be understood as uttering the



## Miscellanea.

Description of a Coin found at Nurney, Co. Kildare.\*—On the obverse are two heads, back to back, with the legend IMP. DIVI. F. The reverse displays a crocodile, chained to a tree, the letters COL. NEM on either side.

This coin was struck at the Roman colony of Nemausus, in Gaul, now Nîmes. The fabulous history of this ancient city ascribes its foundation to Hercules, from whose son, Nemausus, it received its name. The two heads represent, most probably, Julius Cæsar and Augustus; and the inscription would appear



to be IMP (erator), DIVI . F (ilius), that is, "The Emperor, son of the God." I would fix this coin as of the time of Augustus. "The first step," writes Humfrey ("Coin Collector's Manual," Vol. I., p. 315), "of Augustus in establishing the custom of placing the portrait of the emperor on the coinage, was effected under cover of that of Julius Cæsar, to whom the senate had formally decreed that honour. On the earliest sestertii of Augustus, therefore, we find the head of the deified Julius occupying the principal side of the coin, whilst on the reverse the portrait of Augustus appears as *the son of the God*, alluding to his adoption by his great-uncle." In the present instance the two heads are placed on the same side, probably in

\* By the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, in whose possession it is.

order to leave room on the reverse for a representation typical of this colony. "Some few of the types of Colonial coins," remarks Humfrey (Vol. II., p. 309), "are singular; for instance, a crocodile, chained to a palm-tree, on those of Nemausus, emblematic of the subjection of Egypt—a type common and appropriate on the coins of Augustus and Agrippa, but apparently inconsistent on those of Nemausus." The abbreviations, COL. NEM. stand for *Coloniæ Nemausi*, and indicate that this was a coin of the colony of Nemausus.

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Palmerstown.—I have often wished to know the origin of the name of the above place. An adjoining demesne being called Sherlockstown,\* where the family of Sherlock now reside, it is natural to suppose that Palmerstown was called after a family of the name of Palmer. In Wootton's *English Baronetage*, London, 1741, p. 441, there is a dissertation on the origin of the word Palmer being taken as a name. I give it *in extenso* :—

"The surname of Palmer owes its rise to that zeal for the Holy Land which for some ages was very warm in Christendom, and drew many persons of distinction from divers countries to embark in the Crusades for carrying on the Holy War. The soldiers who returned home frequently brought a branch of palm of the growth of Palestine, and wore it as a sacred badge and token that they had performed their vows of fighting against the infidels, and from this they were called Palmers."

Let us now see what evidence there is to show that this place was called after a family of the name of Palmer. Giraldus Cambrensis, in his *De Expugnacione Hiberniæ*, "On the Conquest of Ireland"—the work from which is derived all the information concerning the conquest of our country in Henry II.'s reign—relates nearly all that is known on that subject :—

"Fitzstephen, accompanied by Maurice de Prendergast, embarked from Wales, in the Spring of 1169 A.D., and landed at the mouth of the Bannow. This is the earliest Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland."

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\* Sherlockstown, Co. Kildare, bore this name as early as A.D. 1299. In the Roll of Great Receipts, Cal. of Doc., vol. iii., is the following entry:—"The Villula of Schyrlokestown did not come to the inquisition of the Coroner at Kildare, May and October"—fined 10s. each time. There is another Sherlockstown, or Scurlogstown, in the Barony of Lower Deece, Co. Meath, called from William de Scurlog, who erected a castle there about A.D. 1180. This castle is described, and a drawing given, in Sir W. Wilde's "Boyne"; also in Wakeman's "Antiquities."—W. SHERLOCK.

Now, to return to our subject, as to the name Palmer. There is a passage in De Burgo, *Hibernica Dominicana*, p. 535, which runs thus:—

“Wadding, Ware, &c., knew better than Echard that the family of Palmer, though originally English, came to Ireland with many others in 1169, and took up their dwelling, near Palmerstown, *i. e.* Palmer’s town; and as this was the native place of Thomas Hibernicus, ‘a writer,’ he took the name of Palmeranus, or Palmerstonensis, from it.”

There is a mention in De Burgo of the name Palmer:—

“One Alured de Palmer, in A.D. 1188, founded a house for Trinitarians (Crutched Friars) in Thomas-street, Dublin. He was by nation a Dane, and the first Prior of the same house. From this last family the Earls of Castlemaine are descended.”(?)

The following mention of the name Palmer occurs in the Close Rolls:—

“CLOSE ROLL, 46 EDWARD III.\*

“*March 12th.*

“A WRIT,

“The King to the Sheriff of Kildare, greeting. We order you strictly commanding you that you compel *Walter Lenfant, Ralf Wolf, John Wolf, Thomas Cadell, Thomas Creef, Guy Faunt, John O’Toole, William Alisandre, Nicholas Barberdore, THOMAS PALMER, JAMES PALMER, Myles Cnayh, Maurice Kyeck, John Fitzgerald, Philip Fitzgerald, Thomas Philiptown, Henry Dowerane, William Mayowson, John Brown of the Burton, Peter Lenfant, John Savage, William Sherman*, and all other of your County, to restore and deliver to you all and singular animals of booty from O’Murthy and from men and their tenants in the district of Leix† from Friday after the feast of the Epiphany (Jan 6th) last past at which time he submitted himself and his men to our peace captured then and their custody now being, with all the quickness that you can under forfeiture of every thing that can be forfeited to us so that you shall deliver these animals by you received in forms aforesaid to our beloved Oliver FitzEustace by indenture thereof between you in due manner to be made to keep them safe and securely at the disposal and advice of our beloved and faithful ‡Maurice Fitzthomas Earl of Kildare until we shall otherwise order him.

“Witness our aforesaid Deputy at Dublin March 12.

““(This writ was issued by Maurice 4th Earl of Kildare Lord Deputy [*i. e.* Ld Lt] and Council in Dublin.)”

So much for the evidence that such a person as Palmer came to Ireland.

\* A. D. 1372.

† Borders of Queen’s County.

‡ Fourth Earl.

Palmer's Town is clearly set down in De Burgo:—"Palmerstown near Naas, in the territory of Kildare, in Leinster." This fixes the place. There are also two Palmers-towns in the county Dublin, one of them about eight miles from this, from which I now write.—MAYO.

**The Boyne.**—This river, so celebrated for its salmon fishery and the beautiful scenery on its banks at Oldcastle, Beauparc, and Slane, rises at an elevation of 289 feet above the sea, in the demesne of Newbury Hall, near the village of Carbury, county of Kildare. Trinity Well is pointed out as its absolute source. — *Vide* Ordnance Survey of Ireland; Antiquities, County of Kildare; Letters, Royal Irish Academy.—MAYO.

**The Walsh Tomb, Kildare Cathedral.**—Among other interesting monuments placed inside the nave for safety are the different portions of an altar-tomb, elaborately decorated with foliage work in relief, intermixed with grotesque animals. This tomb belongs to the county Kilkenny family of the Walshes of Castle Hoel (or as it is variously spelt Castle Hale, Castle Hoyle, and Castle Howel). In Wright's "Ireland Illustrated," there is an engraving of the ruins of Castle Howel, which is in the barony of Kells. In the letterpress it states that this family of the Walshes became extinct in 1737.

The covering slab bears an inscription in large bold raised letters; all down the left upper edge is a framework of the foliage pattern, inside this, in the four corners, are the emblems of the Four Evangelists:—

In the right top corner is an angel bearing a scroll, with the words MATHEUS: EVANG.

In the left top corner is a winged lion, with a scroll, on which are the words MARCVS: EVA.

In the right bottom corner is an eagle, holding a scroll, with the words IOHANES: EVA.

In the left bottom corner is a winged calf, with the words LVCAS: EVA on the scroll.\*

All the figures bear a cross on the head; in the left-hand top corner is an angel in a kilt-like garment blowing a trumpet, and beside it are the words MICHA | EL. AR | CHA | in three lines.

At the head of the inscription is a coat-of-arms on a shield, viz.—Argent, a chevron gules, between three broad

\* *Vide* Revelations, chap. iv., v. 7.

pheons, points upwards, sable (on the chevron is a crescent denoting a second son). A large triangular portion of the slab is broken off, and the piece is lost, which makes the inscription incomplete; but by comparing it with a note made in the year 1782 by a gentleman named Austin Cooper, who in that year made a sketching tour in the neighbourhood, most of the missing words can be made good. Even Austin Cooper's copy is not quite correct, as two or three letters now on the stone are not in his copy of the inscription, which I suspect is partly guess work.

The inscription is given below in its present mutilated state; and side by side with it are given Austin Cooper's copy of the missing portion, together with Father Denis Murphy's version of what he thinks it more likely was, and also his translation of it:—

HOC MONUMENTUM FIERI FECIT WALTE RUS WALSHÆUS ARMIGER QUOND AM DE KILDARE ORIUNDUS EX A NTIQUA PRO SAP IA DE CASTELHE		FATHER MURPHY'S VERSION.
AUSTIN COOPER'S COPY.	alcum . . o dict- a famil . . hæ- e dismond . . . shæo . . qui o- biit 12 die Aprilis anno domini 1621	. . . . . O DICT . . . . . HÆR . . . . . WAL . . . . . QUI O . . . . . 2 DIE APRILIS ANNO DOMINI 1621
		aleo pro dict- æ familæ hæ- ede Edmondo Wal- shæo . . qui o- biit 12 die Aprilis anno Domini 1621

TRANSLATION BY FATHER DENIS MURPHY:—Walter Walsh, gentleman, formerly of Kildare, descended from the ancient family of Castle Hale, caused this monument to be made for Edmund Walsh, the heir of the said family, who died the 12th day of April, anno Domini 1621.

Sir Bernard Burke, in his "General Armoury," says the Castle Hoel Walshes were a branch of the Walshes of the Walsh mountains; their ancestor was Philip Brenagh, *i. e.* Philip the Welshman, who came over into Ireland during the Strongbow invasion. Philip's son was Haylus Brenagh (a name which in time was anglicised to Walsh, though pronounced Welsh), who built a castle which was called after him Castle Hayl, or Castle Hoel.

There was, Sir Bernard says, a Walter Walsh, Dean of Kildare in 1610, who died on the 6th April, 1621. Fun. ent. Ulster's Office.—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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**The Killashee Caves.**—When at Killashee, during the excursion in September last year, I understood that these caves had been accidentally discovered a few years ago when taking a dead apple-tree up by the roots, but this must be a mistake, as they are mentioned casually by Grose in his 2nd volume on "The Antiquities of Ireland," in 1792, *vide* p. 84, where he says:—"Directly behind the house, on the rising ground, is Killussy Church, there are a number of caves contiguous, a strong proof of the antiquity of the fabrick."

Again, in the 3rd volume of the "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy," at p. 75, will be found an essay on "The Antiquity of the Church of Killossy," by William Beaufort, read on the 20th of January 1790, and towards the end of it he thus notices these caves:—

On the west end of the church, under a rising ground, are a number of subterraneous artificial caves, in a dry, sandy soil, with pediment roofs, and communicating with each other by small apertures. One of these caves, near the church, had its sides composed of stone, and covered with flat stones, in which was found part of a quern and the bones of some fowls. The other caves have no other wall or covering than the native earth. These caves, with others of a similar nature found in several parts of Ireland, were the granaries or magazines of the ancient inhabitants, in which they deposited their corn and provisions, and into which they also retreated in time of danger. In the Brehon Laws they are mentioned under the name of "Log," and by those laws a fine was inflicted on any person who stole any provisions or goods out of them. These granaries are thus described by a Danish captain of the ninth century in the Islandic annals:—"Leifr, going a pyrating towards the west, infested Ireland with his arms. Here he found large subterraneous caves, whose entrances were dismal and dark, but on proceeding he saw the glittering of the weapons which the soldiers within held in their hands. Leifr killed the men, and brought the swords away, together with a great quantity of other riches; whence he was afterwards called *Hior-leifr*, or *Leifr of the Swords*" (*vide* "Antiq. Celto Scandic," p. 14, *ex* Landnamaboc). These caves were used as granaries long after the arrival of the English, and numbers of various constructions have been from time to time discovered in various parts of the kingdom. Those at Killossy seemed to have belonged to the ancient monastery, and were within its enclosure.

Beaufort's essay is illustrated with an engraving of the church and church-tower of Killashee, taken from the north-west, while Grose has a view of it from the south-west; the tower was not then, as it is at present, hidden under a thick growth of ivy.—WALTER FITZ GERALD.



**Extract from the Book of General Orders, 1654-5\*.**—**NAAS**—  
 Cap<sup>t</sup>. W<sup>m</sup>. Sands to continue in y<sup>e</sup> Vicarage-Castle of y<sup>e</sup> Naas.  
 Upon consideration had of the report of the Com<sup>y</sup>. Gen<sup>el</sup>. of the  
 Revenue touching the Vicarage Castle at the Naas, and y<sup>e</sup> Lands  
 thereunto belonging (now in the possession of Cap<sup>t</sup>. William  
 Sands, Governo<sup>r</sup> there) whereby it is certiyed y<sup>t</sup> the said  
 Castle formerly belonged to the Minister of that place, and that  
 the same was by the Lord Deputy appointed as a Quarter for y<sup>e</sup>  
 said Captain and parte of his Company, and that hee hath noe  
 lease of the Castle but of y<sup>e</sup> Lands thereunto belonging. It is  
 thought fitt and ordered that the said Cap<sup>t</sup>. Sands be and is  
 hereby permitted to continue in the possession of the said  
 Castle and Lands untill the Vicar shall settle there.

Dublin Castle 31<sup>st</sup>. of July 1655.—T.H.C.C.†

WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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\* The original MSS. are to be seen in the Record Office, Four Courts, Dublin  
 labelled  $\frac{A}{5}$ .

† These initials stand for Thomas Herbert, Clerk of the Council.

## Queries.

**Beerdy's Castle, Co. Kildare.**—Can anyone inform me where Beerdy's, or Beard's, Castle is?

In Vol. II., p. 157, of the Irish State Papers of Henry VIII.'s time, it is stated that one of the Fitz Gerald's of Gurteen, styled Baron of Burnchurch (*alias* Kiltrany), in the Co. Kilkenny, when proceeding to Dublin, was seized about the year 1532 by McEnecrosse, a servant to Gerald, the ninth Earl of Kildare. The baron was made prisoner close to the gates of Castledermot, and "conveyed further into the heart of the county of Kildare, to a castle called Beerdy's Castle, and irons brought out of the said earl's own manor of Kilkea, to make fast the Baron."

In Morin's Calendar of Patent Rolls I find in the year 1594 the towns, lands, customs, commons, and hereditaments of Beardth and Newtown were granted to Gerrott Mackworth.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

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**The Chair of Kildare.**—Is any history, or legend, known of in connexion with the rock on the west side of the Hill of Grange, called the Chair of Kildare?

A town of Kildare jarvey gave me on one occasion a garbled story about how in former times the Earls of Kildare used to crown the Kings of Leinster on this rock, so that there must be some legend in connexion with the place.

On Noble and Keenan's map of the county, dated 1752, the rock is marked "the Earl's Chair," while it is written "the Earl of Kildare's Chair" on Lieut. Taylor's large map of the county in 1783. "Carriganearla," *i. e.* the Rock of the Earl, is the name given to the townland, on some hand-painted maps by Roque of the manor of Kildare, then belonging to James, the twentieth Earl of Kildare, which are now at Carton.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

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**Stone Effigies in the County.**—I should be glad to hear of additions to the following list of some of the effigies in stone, erected as tombs over bishops, and also over knights and their wives in the county. They are to be found at:—

KILDARE (two), where there is an effigy of Sir Maurice Fitz Gerald<sup>#</sup> of Laekagh, dated 1575; and another of an unknown bishop, supposed

to date from the thirteenth century; both of them lie in St. Bridget's Cathedral.

GREAT CONNELL (two).—An effigy of Bishop Wellesley,\* who died in 1539; this is built into the wall enclosing the burial-ground, at the entrance-gate. There is also another of a bishop, of an early date, in a churchyard called "the Reliegen," in which the Protestant church stands.

AT TIMOLIN (one) lies a knight in armour, supposed to belong to Robert Fitz Richard, Baron of Norragh, and ancestor of the De Valle, or Calfe, family, a name now anglicized to Wall. He was granted lands in the neighbourhood by Strongbow, and the "cut" of the armour belongs to that period, *i. e.* the latter end of the twelfth century.

AT NEW ABBEY, NEAR KILCULLEN BRIDGE (one—a double-one), lie, side by side, Sir Rowland Fitz Eustace, and his wife Margaret Jenico.\* Sir Rowland was Baron of Portlester, and died in 1496.

AT OLD KILCULLEN (one) was formerly an effigy of Sir Oliver (?) Fitz Eustace, who died in ——. For safety this monument was removed to Barretstown Castle, near Ballymore-Eustace, by Sir Erasmus D. Burrowes, *circa* 1858.—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

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\* This effigy has an inscription round it.

## Replies to Queries.

**Ashe of Moone** (*JOURNAL*, vol. i., pt. I., p. 41).—In reply to Lord Walter Fitz Gerald's query in your first number as to Ashe of Moone, I think I can throw a little, though only a little, light upon the subject. In an old family Bible, printed in 1678, and now before me, the first entry is—"Abraham Swift and Martha Cooke was married the 24th June, 1680, being upon a Thursday." I have the Probate of the will of this Martha, dated 23rd June, 1715, proved 1717, from which it appears that she was subsequently married to a Mr. Ashe, and I gather that she was the mother of the Thomas Ashe, buried nine feet deep (he had sanitary ideas in advance of his time), at Moone; for in her will she makes mention of her brothers, Daniel and Samuel Cooke, and her children, Thomas, Mary, Deborah, and Martha Ashe, and her son Abraham Swift.

After disposing of Abraham and Martha, and their children, the next entry in the Bible, which appears to have been inherited by her daughter Deborah, records her marriage:—"Deborah Ashe was married June 23, 1734, to Thomas Cooke, at Moone, by Mr. Espine; it was on a Sunday." She had only three daughters, all of whom died unmarried. From the last survivor of them the Bible in question descended to my grandmother, through whom it has come to me.

The Cookes, with whom the Ashes intermarried twice, were merchants of wealth and position in the city of Dublin, having been frequently sheriffs and lords mayor. The father of Martha Cooke (mother of Thomas Ashe of the nine feet) was one George Cooke, married to Deborah Hutchinson. His grandson, Sir Samuel Cooke, was grandfather to Mary Weldon, my grandmother.

As to the arms of Ashe, I have a drinking-cup with their arms engraved, Argent, 2 chevrons sable; Crest, a cockatrice.—ТНОМАС СООКЕ-ТРЕНЧ.

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This Thomas Ashe was an alderman of Dublin; he purchased in 1703 the manor of Moone, forfeited by Thomas and Maurice Eustace in the Rebellion of 1641. In the year of his death (1741) he was high sheriff for the Co. Kildare. The following extract is taken from his will:—

"In the name of God, Amen. I, Thomas Ashe, of Moone, in the county of Kildare, Esq., do make this my last will and testament, in manner and form following. . . . I order and direct that my body

(in case that I shall dye in the country) shall be interred in the most private manner by my executors hereafter named, *nine feet deep in the center of the mount in the mountfield*, being part of my estate of Moone, in the county of Kildare; and in case that I shall dye in the city of Dublin, I order and direct that my body shall be buried nine feet deep in the parish churchyard of St. James's in Dublin, in the most private manner by my executors."

The Ashe coat-of-arms is:—Argent, two chevronels sable.—  
WALTER FITZGERALD.

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**Castlesize.**—In reference to the remark about the origin of the name Castlesize, suggested at p. 42 of No. 1, of the JOURNAL, I beg to say that the Brehon Laws required a signal-light to be set up in such places for the guidance of travellers. See O'Curry's *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish*, I., cccxviii.—D. M.

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**"The Breedoge"** (JOURNAL, No. 1, p. 40).—In answer to my query in the County Kildare Archæological Journal, as to whether the custom of carrying round the Breedoge was a local one or not, I received a communication from Dr. P. W. Joyce, M.R.I.A., of the Educational Department, in which he says he made inquiries among the pupils concerning it, with the result that he got written descriptions of it in the counties of Kilkenny, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, and Mayo, so that the custom is very general over Ireland. I have given below two or three descriptions of this custom, which I have selected from several sent to me by Dr. Joyce:—

One from the Co. Mayo.—The children dress up a figure, and decorate it with ribbons and flowers. Then four or more of them carry it from house to house on St. Bridget's Day,\* and ask the housewife to "honour the Breedoge." One of the girls hums a tune, and the others dance. It is thought a very niggardly thing to refuse to honour the effigy. Eggs are taken where the housekeeper has no coppers to give. There is a spokeswoman for the party, who has a short made-up speech that she delivers at every house. The money and eggs collected are evenly divided between the girls, who purchase sweets and cakes with the proceeds. The girls usually choose the day for their rounds; then, at night, the boys go round with what is called "The Cross." This is a cross made of two ropes; a boy catches an end each, and then the four boys dance away to the music of a flute; like the girls they, too, gather contributions from each house they visit, and spend the result in a jollification.

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\* St. Bridget's Day falls on the 1st February.

Another from the Co. Kerry.—The Breedhogue is an image, supposed to be St. Bridget. It consists of a churn-dash, or broom-stick, padded round with straw, and covered with a woman's dress, the head being formed of a bundle of hay, rolled into the form of a ball; the hands are formed of furze branches, stuck up in the sleeves. This figure is carried round from house to house by boys and girls on St. Bridget's Eve. One boy starts a tune, and the others commence dancing, after which they are given pennies, or more generally eggs, in honour of the "Biddy." No matter what the weather is, the Breedhogue is annually carried round, though since moonlighting commenced in Kerry it had to be discontinued for some time, owing to the fear of being mistaken for members of that band.

A Co. Cork description.—In some parts of the county the boys dress up a female figure in a white dress with gaudy ribbons, which they call "a Breedhogue." They are generally themselves queerly dressed and disguised. On St. Bridget's Eve they visit from house to house in the parish, particularly those houses where there are young women who, they say, should get married during Shrove time. If they are welcomed, and given money for a spree, then they will praise up and recommend the girls to their male friends; but if not, they will warn them to avoid them.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

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The practice alluded to by Lord Walter FitzGerald at p. 40 exists in several parts of Ireland. It is probably a remnant of the procession in honour of St. Brigid, when her statue would be carried about. The rude figure, if we can call it such, goes by the name of Breedog, *i. e.* *Brigid's óig*, Brigid the Virgin.—D. M.

## Review.

*Six Months in the Apennines.* By Miss M. STOKES.

WE welcome with great pleasure another book by that accomplished and conscientious artist and authoress, Miss Margaret Stokes. In a former work—*Early Christian Art in Ireland*—Miss Stokes remarks, p. 4:—

“Ireland, owing to its isolated position on the outskirts of Europe, offered at certain periods in the civil history of Europe a temporary refuge for scholars and pilgrims of various nationalities, who fled from the disorders and lawlessness still prevailing on the Continent.”

In this opinion Miss Stokes is supported by numerous authorities. Leland has remarked that “the testimony of Bede is unquestionable; that about the middle of the seventh century, in the days of the venerable prelates Finian and Colman, many nobles and other orders of the Anglo-Saxons retired from their own country into Ireland, either for instruction or for an opportunity of living in monasteries of stricter discipline.” And when we recollect that there were numerous colleges in Ireland, each containing many thousands of students, it is not surprising that these Irish early Christians, hearing from their Anglo-Saxon brethren of the ignorance and barbarism of the Continent, sent their missionaries to convert the Pagans, and establish convents and colleges in different parts of Europe.

Miss Stokes also points out how, in the ninth century, the persecutions of the Danes drove large numbers to the Continent, and gives most picturesque particulars of the life of “Dungal” at Pavia. We heartily agree with her, that “the knowledge of the religion taught, and the religious life carried out by those devoted men in the dark ages of European history, must be a study at once elevating and invigorating.”

Although the lives of the saints form a study full of romantic and religious interest, they cannot be considered very trustworthy material for history; but when the events of those lives and legends come to be illustrated by artists, they afford to the archæological student the most trustworthy and attractive insight into the condition of early art, and to the general reader a knowledge of social life and religious thought far more striking and complete than that derived from mere verbal descriptions.

No one can read *Six Months in the Apennines* without feeling that Miss Stokes has most diligently endeavoured to trace out and discover everything which can redound to the credit of Ireland in the vestiges of the pilgrims and saints she has so reverently followed; and if she has not, in the work before us, thrown much additional light upon the origin of Christian art in Ireland, she has, at least, written some charming letters, illustrated by excellent drawings and photographs descriptive of the scenes, legends, and relics connected with those

devoted men who, more than a thousand years ago, left our shores, crossed the Continent on foot, established themselves in wildernesses and forests, and founded schools and colleges in places where the light of religion and civilization had never yet penetrated.

Our space will not permit us to follow in detail Miss Stokes in her excursions through the lovely Apennines in search of memorials of the holy men she mentions, nor to allude at length to the many legends she relates in connexion with their teaching and miracles, nor to describe the various tombs and basilicas, of which she gives drawings and photographs, erected to the memory of the Irish saints and holy men.

We are glad to notice that Miss Stokes has not forgotten our own St. Bridget of Kildare, of whom she relates a pretty legend in connexion with the death of her brother, St. Andrew, at Fiesole, who, feeling his end to be approaching, and longing to see his sister, St. Bridget, from whom he had parted in childhood, and who was then in Ireland, prayed earnestly to see her face once more. An angel bore her to the death-bed at Fiesole. We must refer our readers to the story of this truly pathetic meeting and farewell, as touching as anything to be found in *The Lives of the Saints*.

Of her visit to Bobbio Miss Stokes gives many drawings and photographs, notably of the Church of St. Columban, and the crypt and tomb in which the saint and those who followed him from Ireland are buried. She has also given photographs of many examples of interlaced work, which has so often been associated with Irish art, as well as a drawing of the Knife of St. Columban, which is said to be of such blessing and virtue, that bread cut with it is never afterwards liable to corruption, and if women eat this bread when nursing, it causes an abundance of milk, and has also great efficacy against sprains and the bites of mad dogs.

The theory that the well-known interlaced art originated in Ireland is conclusively dealt with by our authoress, and many beautiful examples are given of this ornamentation that she met with at Fiesole, Pavia, and Bobbio—

“The idea that the interlaced work which characterized the early Christian art of these islands originated here and was carried hence by our early pilgrims and missionaries of the Scottish Church may be for ever abandoned. Certain varieties of such designs were developed in Ireland, as already stated, and if they were to appear in any part of the Continent, as has been observed by Canon Browne, it would be on these tombs, but these Irish varieties do not appear on the tombs of Columban and of his followers at Bobbio.”

Those of our readers who wish to know more of St. Finian, St. Selim, St. Columban, St. Andrew, St. Donatus, and other Irish saints, will find in Miss Stokes' pages much to interest and instruct them, and we shall be surprised if her descriptions of the scenery of the Apennines, and the drawings and photographs of Pavia, Lucca, and Bobbio do not inspire many of our fellow-countrymen and women to imitate her example, and endeavour to seek out on the Continent further reminiscences of those who were chiefly instrumental in obtaining for our country the name of “The Isle of Saints.”



# JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

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## OBITUARY.

**G**ERALD FITZGERALD, Premier Duke, Marquis, and Earl of Ireland, was born in Dublin on the 16th of August, 1851. He was the fifth Duke of Leinster, a Privy Councillor, and Lord Lieutenant and Justice of the Peace of the County of Kildare, President of the Unionist Alliance, a Governor and Guardian of the National Gallery of Ireland, and President of the Kildare Archæological Society.

He was educated at Eton. In the years 1874-5, he held the post of Captain of the Kildare Militia. He married the Lady Hermione Wilhelmina Duncombe, daughter of the Earl of Feversham, in the year 1884. At this period he lived at Kilkea Castle, which was built in 1180 by De Lacy, and strengthened and enlarged in 1426 by John FitzGerald, sixth Earl of Kildare. This building is a grand Anglo-Norman stronghold, most picturesque in the irregular outline of its lofty battlemented towers; and its interior, while preserving the picturesque character of the days of chivalry, has all the graces of a modern domestic dwelling.

When the Church of Ireland, to which he was strongly attached, was disestablished, the Duke was in his nineteenth year. Subsequently he became member of the General Synod and Diocesan Nominator for the Dioceses of Kildare and Glendalough. He was also a member of the Diocesan Council of Kildare, and both at Synod and Council was most assiduous and useful.

He weighed every word that was said with a view to arriving at a right conclusion; in this, as in County, Political, and Estate matters, laboriously striving to know what was right to do; and when once satisfied as to his duty, he followed it out with an almost painful conscientiousness. The Duke seldom spoke, but when he did, his quiet thoughtful utterances always commanded the attention of the House. When the Kildare and Rathangan property was sold to the tenants under Lord Ashbourne's Act, he continued to support the Church on that property.

He was offered the Order of St. Patrick, but refused this honour, as his father and grandfather had done before him. He did not feel that he had done anything to merit such distinctions, and disapproved of their being given, as they now too often are, for social position only.

On the death of his father in 1887, and when he was 36 years of age, he succeeded to the dukedom, and at once set himself conscientiously to fulfil the duties of his high position, managing his large possessions with wisdom and charity. He then went to live at Carton, near the old Castle of Maynooth, which had been one of the principal seats of his family since the year 1176, when it was built by Maurice FitzGerald.

Ireland, at the time when the Duke entered on the management of his affairs, had been for some time virtually in a state of revolution, and the crisis that seems to have been so wisely met by the Duke and by his father, is an important feature, not only in their individual history, but in that of our country. The Duke's desire was the promotion of the real welfare of all with whom he had to do, and in the end there was no friction or unpleasantness with his tenantry. Although holding the highest position in this country, he was easily approached, and anxious in the smallest detail of life to do what was best in the sight of God and fair and just to his fellow-men. It was this power of simple goodness which overcame difficulties that would seem insuperable when we recall the political events of the past fifteen years. The kindly spirit in which the crisis was met by the Duke, his consideration and the general tendency he displayed to subordinate his own interests to those of his tenantry, must always be remembered to his honour.

Besides thus earnestly labouring for the wise administration of his personal property, the Duke did what in him lay to promote any public movement for the advance of the country. He was one of the Visitors of the Science and Art Museum of Dublin, and nothing could exceed the warm interest he took in the formation and growth of the Art Department of this Institution, to which he was a frequent contributor, visiting it constantly,

and examining every new acquisition with pleasure.\* In the Director's Report for the year 1890, he gives a list of no less than fifty various examples of Art and Manufacture given by the Duke of Leinster to the Museum, comprising specimens of Wedgwood and Dresden china, foreign embroideries, and pottery, and marbles. His loans in 1891, 1892, and 1893, comprise coins, medals, embroideries, and other objects of interest, and in 1892, specimens of Italian, German, and Dutch Arts. He also took a warm and personal interest in the restoration of the Cathedral of Kildare, and especially superintended the designs for a memorial window to Dr. Chaplin, a physician in the town.

When the Co. Kildare Archæological Society held its inaugural meeting at Palmerstown, in April, 1891, the Duke of Leinster occupied the Chair, and was unanimously elected President. The last meeting of the Society was held at Maynooth in Sept., 1893.† Upon that occasion, when the Members and Visitors were assembled on the now grass-grown floor of the great ruined hall of Maynooth Castle, he gave them a short account of the history and features of this stronghold and dwelling of his ancestors. He then invited the large assembly, after they had visited the College at Maynooth, to a luncheon prepared for them at Carton, where he showed them the various treasures collected for centuries in his house. Among these were the "Red Book of Kildare"; the "Book of Obits of diverse gentlemen of the Geraldys"; the ancient table of Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, from Maynooth Castle; the sculptured stones from Woodstock Castle, near Athy; and the beautiful landscapes of Cuypp, which adorn the walls of the Library. This was the Duke's last appearance in public in this country, and his guests will long remember the gracious kindness and unobtrusive dignity of their host on that occasion.

On the 11th of November it became known that he was suffering from typhoid fever, and on the last day of the month his state was hopeless. He died, surrounded by his family, at Carton, at six o'clock on Friday morning, December 1st.

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\* As this notice was going to press, the following was received from Mr. Walter Armstrong, Director of the Irish National Gallery:—"The Duke of Leinster gave to the National Gallery the large picture, by Wheatley, of the Irish Volunteers meeting in College-green. It is, perhaps, the best Wheatley in existence, and one of the best things of the class to which it belongs." Mr. Armstrong also lays stress upon the "quiet but excellent taste possessed by the late Duke of Leinster."

† An account of this meeting, and the Paper read by the Duke, will appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

He was a man of deeds, not words : one whose every action was guided by a lofty sense of duty, and yet possessed of a deep and loving heart, whose dictates he permitted to lead, but never to mislead him. His charity was generous and large-minded, embracing all who needed it, without respect of creed. To quote the words of the Roman Catholic parish priest of Maynooth on his early death : "The poor have lost a sincere friend, and the working people of Maynooth a good employer. The Duke and Duchess were seldom absent from Carton. They lived in the midst of their people. They were anxious about their welfare. They knew their wants, and relieved them. They silently sought out the sick and suffering, and gave them help."

The characteristics we have here indicated were an inheritance from a long line of noble and patriotic ancestors. Their story, for seven centuries, has been traced by the Duke's father from the vineyards of the Val d'Elsa to Desmond and Adare, from Dominus Otho—who flourished at the Court of Edward the Confessor, and was probably son of the old Tuscan Baron Gherardo—down to Lord Edward, whom the Irish peasant long believed would come again like Arthur, and marshal the Celtic ranks on the Curragh. A writer in the *Saturday Review*, vol. v., p. 135, speaking of this history of the Geraldines, says :—

"Their story exhibits the curious phenomenon of an attempt, and to some extent, a successful attempt, to combine in their own persons the ideal characteristics of two essentially different systems of civilization, the Anglo-Norman and the Hiberno-Celtic."

And the same writer adds, with a touch of sarcasm :—

"That which chiefly distinguishes the Geraldines from all their compeers is their irresistible tendency to love Ireland and all things Irish. Writers like Mr. Froude have found divers hypotheses to account for this almost inexplicable phenomenon, the simple solution of which may be found in Dante's words :—

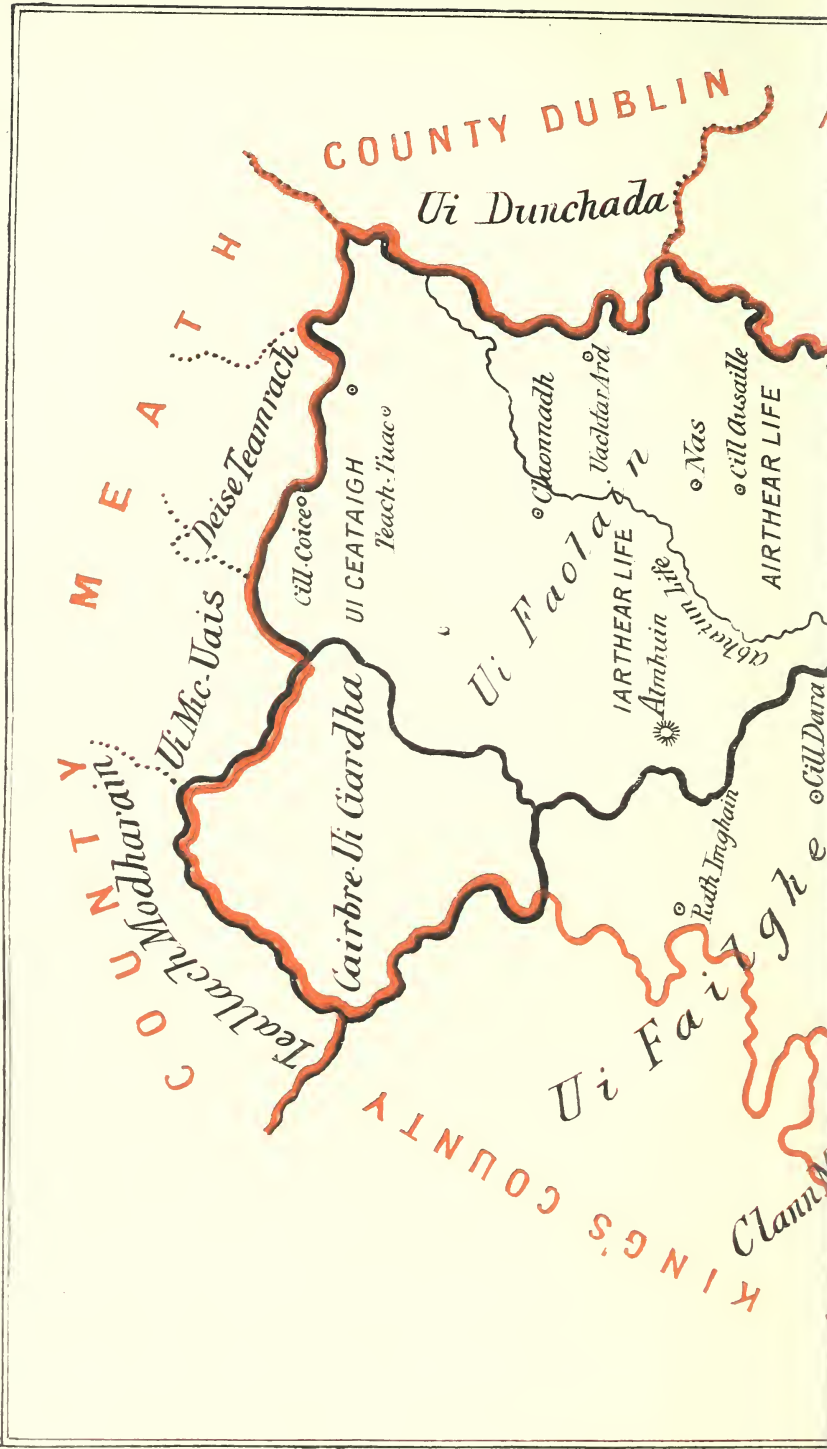
'Amor che a nulla amato amar perdona.'

"The Geraldines loved Ireland because Ireland loved the Geraldines ; but nothing tended more to cement this attachment than the strength and permanence of their family affection."

Here, indeed, all who were admitted within the circle of the late Duke's domestic life will admit that he was a true Geraldine ; and to all who enjoyed the privilege of his unchanging friendship, we may say, with Browning, that here was one—

"Able to help you onward in the path  
Of rectitude, when thus your face is set,  
And counsel justice."





COUNTY DUBLIN

Uí Dunchada

M E A T H

Deise Teamrach

Cill Coice

UI CEATAIGH

Teach: Tuac

Chonmáth

Vachtar Ard

Nas

Cill Ansaile

AIRTHEAR LIFE

M O U N T H A R A I N

Uí Mic-Uais

Cairbre Uí Ciardha

Uí Faolta

IARTHEAR LIFE

Abhainn Uíe

Peath Imghain

Cill Dara

C O U N T Y

Teallach Mhótharain

Uí Fainghe

K I N G S C O U N T Y

Clann Mhótharain







THE ANCIENT TERRITORIES OUT OF WHICH THE  
PRESENT COUNTY KILDARE WAS FORMED,  
AND THEIR SEPTS.

BY LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

IN the year 1210 Kildare was one of the seven counties of Leinster created by King John; the other six were Dublin, Louth, Meath, Carlow, Kilkenny, and Wexford. The remaining counties of Leinster were of a far later formation owing to the fierce opposition of the native tribes. Thus, in 1543, during the reign of Henry VIII., West Meath was separated from Meath and became a county; the King's and Queen's Counties were constituted in 1555 during the reign of Philip and Mary (after whom they were called); Longford became a county in 1565 during Elizabeth's reign; and lastly, the county Wicklow was formed by James I. in 1605.\*

The county Kildare was formed out of three native territories and a large portion of a fourth. These were—

1. Cairbre Ui Ciardha, or Carbury.
2. Ui Faelain, or Offelan.
3. Hy Muireadhaigh, or Omurethi.
4. And about half of Ui Failghe, or Offaly.

Each of these districts belonged to a particular tribe or sept. The sept consisted of a number of families and their retainers, which all had a more or less remote blood-relationship with the head family out of which the Chief was chosen. Before the adoption of surnames, which took place about the 11th century, the families composing the sept were all distinguished under the tribe-name of their territory, which itself had been originally called after some illustrious member of the sept. This was done by prefixing to the ancestor's name such terms as—

1. Clan (*i.e.* race), as for instance Clanmalier, meaning "Maolughra's Race," the tribe name of the O'Dempseys.
2. Shiel (*i.e.* progeny), as Shelburne in Wexford, meaning "the Progeny of Bran."

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\* *Vide* Harris's edition of "Ware's Antiquities of Ireland."

3. *Ui, Hy or I* (*i.e.* descendants), as *Imaile* in the Co. Wicklow, meaning "the descendants of (Main) Mal," and as in three of the Co. Kildare territories; and "*Kinel*," "*Core*," "*Dal*," "*Tellagh*," and others, all of which have a similar use and meaning.

The individual member of a sept, when mentioned in the annals of Ireland, was always described as his father's son, or of such and such a place, because surnames had not then been adopted; for instance, we read that—

1. *The age of Christ, 765.*—Folachtach, of Teach Tuae (now Taghadoe, near Maynooth), Abbot of Cluain Mic Nois, died.

2. *The age of Christ, 781.*—The battle of Righ (now the Rye Water, a river which separates Kildare from Meath, and joins the Liffey at Leixlip) was gained by the men of Breagh (Meath) over the Leinstermen, on the day of Allhallows precisely, wherein were slain Cucongalt, lord of Rath Inbher (at the mouth of the river Dea, Co. Wicklow) and Fearghal, son of Ailill, lord of Cinel-Ucha.

3. *The age of Christ, 861.*—Muiregan, son of Diarmaid, lord of Nas and Airther Life, was slain by the Norsemen.

But somewhere about the time of Brian Boru's reign the formation of surnames commenced in Ireland. These surnames were formed by prefixing "O'" or "Mac" to the name of an ancestor. If the name selected was that of the father, then the prefix "Mac," meaning "son of," was used, as MacGillamocholmog, or MacMurrough; but if the name selected was that of a more remote ancestor, the prefix "O'," meaning "descendant of," was used, as O'Conor, etc.

The plural of "O'" (or "Ua," as it was generally written) is "Ui," "Hy," or "I." With this latter form the tribe-name of a sept usually commenced. From the genealogical table attached to this Paper it will be seen from whom the Kildare septs chose their tribe-names, and later on their surnames.\*

The sept had its hereditary officers, such as *the Druids*, who were priests and also physicians; *the Brehons*, or lawyers and judges (the Irish, or Brehon, law continued in force in parts of Ireland as late as the seventeenth century), and *the Bards*, whose duty it was to correct and keep up to date the genealogy of the sept, and render a true history of it at the tri-annual

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\* The information given by this table and by the map has been gathered from various sources, but principally from Father Shearman's "*Loca Patriciana*," and O'Donovan's "*Annals of the Four Masters*," "*Topographical Poems*," and "*Book of Rights*."

meeting at Tara. The Chief was elected by the different heads of the sub-families, and only owed allegiance to the king of the province in which his territory was situated, to whom he paid tribute. The law of succession to the chieftainship was known as Tanistry; the "Tanist," or successor, was chosen on the installation of the Chief so as to prevent future trouble from rival claimants. He was related to the Chief, but not necessarily his son. The inauguration of a Chief always took place in a locality appointed especially for the purpose. With some sept the place was a certain Tree, Carn, or Rath; and with others a Hill, footmarked Rock, or stone Seat.\* The following conditions, according to John O'Donovan's researches, were generally necessary for the legitimate instalment of a Chief:—

1. He must be of the blood of the original acquirer of the territory; free from all personal deformities or defects,† and of an age to be able to lead his clan in the field of battle.

2. The majority of his sub-chiefs and freeholders must declare in his favour.

3. The inauguration must be celebrated at a remarkable place in the territory appointed of old for the purpose; the Brehons and Bards must be in attendance to explain his duties, and see the oath to uphold the rights of the clan duly taken.

4. After taking the oath the Chief must lay aside his weapons, and a straight white wand must be then handed to him as a sceptre and emblem of rectitude, thus indicating to his subjects that as long as they are obedient to him he requires no other weapon to command them.

5. After receiving the wand the principal sub-chief must tie his brogues, or sandals, on his feet in token of obedience, and throw another over his head in token of good luck and prosperity.

6. And lastly, the proper official must call aloud his surname (thus, "O'Toole," or "O'Byrne," etc., as the case may be), which must be repeated in turn by the sub-chiefs and freeholders, after which the Chieftain must turn round thrice forwards and thrice backwards in honour of the Holy Trinity, so as to view his people and territory; which being done, he became the legitimate Chief of his name.

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\* The Chair of Kildare may have been used for some such purpose, as there is a tradition in the locality to that effect.

† It was a common practice for a Chief on overcoming a rebellious rival, if he did not put him to death, to blind him, and so disqualify him from ever becoming Chieftain.

In some instances the places where Chiefs used to be inaugurated have been recorded by the Annals, and the following list gives those now known :—

The O'BYRNE, at "Dun Caillighe Beirre."

The MACMURROUGH, at "Cnoc-an-Bhogha" (Knockavoe) and Leac Mhic Eochadha (Lechmac Eochy), both in the Co. Wexford (?).

The O'ROURKE of Breifny at "Cruachan O' Cuproin," now Cruachan, near Killeshandra, Co. Cavan.

The MACGUIRE, at "Sgiath Ghabhra" (Skea Gavra), now Lisnaskea, near Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh.

The O'DONNELL, on the Hill of Doon, near Kilmacrenan, Co. Donegal; the inauguration Stone is said to be now in the old churchyard of Kilmacrenan.

The MACMAHON, at Tullyvea.

The O'DOWD, at "Carn inghine Bhriain," supposed to be the Carn on the top of Ardnarea; and at "Carn Amhalgaidh" (Carn Awley), now Mullaghearn, both in the barony of Tíreragh, Co. Sligo.

The O'NEILL, on a stone in the Rath on Tullaghoge, Co. Tyrone. This stone, known as "Leac-na-Righ" and "O'Neill's Chair," was smashed in pieces by the orders of the Lord Deputy, Lord Mountjoy, in 1602.

The O'BRIEN, of Thomond, under a tree on "Magh Adhair," now Moyry, near Tullagh, Co. Clare. This inauguration tree was maliciously dug up by the roots and cut to pieces by the orders of Malachy, king of Ireland, in the year 982.

The O'TOOLE, at the Chair of Kildare (?).

The O'DONOVAN, at the Moat of Bruree, Co. Limerick, and later on at Ross Carbery, Co. Cork, which was seized from the O'Driscolls.

The O'CONNORS of Connaught, at Carn Fraoigh (Carnfree), now Carn, near Tulsk, Co. Roscommon.

The MACCARTHY MORE, at Lisbanagher, Co. Kerry.

The O'REILLY, on the hill of Shantoman, between the towns of Cavan and Ballyhaise, Co. Cavan.

The kings of Munster were inaugurated at Cashel.

The Pagan kings of Ireland were crowned on the "Lia Fail," or Stone of Destiny, which is said still to exist at Tara, and now stands in the centre of one of the ancient earth works (the "Forradh"), having been erected there shortly after '98 to mark "the grave of the 37 Croppies"; its former position was on the side of a mound called "Duma na Gall," within the

“Rath na Righ” enclosure. It is said to have roared when a king of the true Irish race stood on it during his inauguration. There is a tradition in connexion with the “Lia Fail,” that in the 6th century it was lent to Scotland for the coronation of a king of Irish descent named Fergus, the son of Eare, and that instead of being returned it was carefully preserved for centuries, first at Iona, then at Dunstaffnage in Argyle-shire, and lastly at Scone, near Perth, until it was seized in 1296 by Edward I., carried off to England, and placed under the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey, where it still remains. According to Petrie this tradition is a Scottish fiction, as the Lia Fail never left Tara, but was lying on “the Duma-na-Gall” in '98 in the position minutely described by the Irish MSS. of the 10th and 11th centuries which referred to Tara.

Of the territory belonging to the sept, part was used as common tillage, meadow, forest, or grazing land; part was occupied by the Rathes and dwellings of the members of the sept with their curtilages; part was reserved for the use of the Chief; and part was held temporally by the heads of families. At the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion the native territories were subdivided into “Tuaths,” “Bailes” (or Ballys), and “Seisreachs.”

*The Seisreach* represented the ploughland, or carrucate, of England; its extent varied, though on an average it was 120 acres; the name is supposed to mean “six horses,” denoting the extent of ground a six-horse plough would turn up in a year at so much per day.

*The Baile* was employed in two senses, one, “The Ballyboe, *i.e.* the House “sub-division,” and the other, Bally Biatach or “sub-division” of the victualler or steward. The Ballyboe was a small measurement of land sufficient to graze twenty-one cows, or about two ploughlands, while the Ballybetach contained twelve ploughlands, and was equivalent to the English “Hundred.”

*The Tuath* was a large extent of country comprising thirty Ballybetachs, *i.e.* 360 ploughlands; the term was originally applied to the people occupying a district which had a complete political and legal administration, and a Chief who could bring into the field a force of 700 men; the word signifies “people,” and is the same as the English word “folk,” which forms a part of two or three English county names such as Norfolk and Suffolk. A “Mor tuath” comprised three or four tuaths, and represented a “Riding” (*recté* Triding).

As a rule, the modern baronies and townlands represent

the above divisions. The baronies representing the Tuaths,\* while the townlands may be looked upon as representing the lesser divisions, such as Ballybetachs, Ballyboes, Seisreachs, Sessighs (of which three went to a Ballyboe), Gneeves (two to a Sessigh), and Gorts. Probably very few townlands correspond exactly with the old divisions, but they show a difference in size quite as great as what existed in ancient times between a Gort (or garden), the smallest plot of land held in severalty, and the Ballybetach.

Lastly, the Counties represent one or more of the territories or petty states; the Co. Longford, for instance, was coextensive with the O'Farrell territory of Annaly, while the Co. Kildare, as mentioned before, includes three or four territories.†

And now to return to the ancient territories comprised in the present Co. Kildare.

#### CAIRBRE.

The first, *Cairbre Ui Ciardha*, which is now the barony of Carbury, in the N.W. corner of the county, was called "Ui Ciardha," to distinguish it from other territories of the same name in the present counties of Sligo, Longford, and Cork; the latter portion of the name was that of the old proprietors, and has been anglicised to O'Keary and Carey.‡

This territory was bounded on the west and south by Offaly; on the east by Offelan; on the north-west by the territory of "Teallach Modharain" (now the barony of Upper Moyfenrath), belonging to the O'Donohoes; and on the north-east by the territory of "Ui MicUais" (now the barony of Lower Moyfenrath), belonging to the O'Henessys; both in the Co. Meath.

#### OFFELAN.

The territory of *Ui Fuolain*, or *Offelan*, was of large extent, as it comprised the present Baronies of Ikeathy and Oughterany, Clane, North and South Salt, nearly all Connell, North Naas, and the upper half of South Naas. After the establish-

\* This was more exactly the case two centuries ago than it is now, owing to the increased number of baronies in later times.

† *Vide* Sullivan's Introduction to "O'Curry's Lectures," vol. i.

‡ I have been unable to find any pedigree of the O'Kearys; their territory was named "Cairbre," after one of the seven sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages, who was king of Ireland at the end of the 4th century; from him the O'Kearys were sprung, and consequently were of a different race to their neighbours the O'Byrnes, O'Conors Faly, etc.

ment of surnames the sept of this district took that of O'Brain, from Bran, the son of Maolmora, who was killed at the Battle of Clontarf, in 1014: the name O'Brain later on became O'Byrne. Their tribe-name of Ui-Faolain was called from an ancestor named Faolan, who died in 737; he was a son of Murchadh More, King of Leinster. About the year 1202 the O'Byrnes were driven from their level and fertile territory by Meyler FitzHenry and his followers, when they were forced to retire into the mountains of Wicklow, where they acquired new settlements, so that in the reigns of Henry VIII. and Elizabeth they were possessed of more than the southern half of the present Co. Wicklow. When in their new quarters the O'Byrnes split into two families—

1. The O'Byrnes of "Crioich Branach," or "The O'Byrne's Country," which included the present barony of New-Castle and that portion of the barony of Arklow lying north of Ennareily.

2. The O'Byrnes of the Ranelagh, known as Gaval Rannall.

Through the middle of Offelan, running from S. to N., flows the river Liffey, whose old name was "Avon Life" (*i.e.* the river Liffey), a name anglicised to "Anna Liffey." Hence there were two subdistricts in Offelan, whose chiefs are now and again mentioned in the Irish Annals; they were called "Airthear (or Oirthear) Life" and "Iarthar Life," meaning respectively the country lying east, and the country lying west, of the Liffey. "Magh Life" is frequently mentioned, too, as being plundered; this name means "the plain of the Liffey," and lay in that portion of the Co. Kildare through which the river flows.

The barony of Ikeathy (Ui Ceataigh) lies in the Offelan district, and, judging by the name, must have been a sub-district belonging to the O'Byrnes; there is no mention made in the Annals of this tribe-name, which, according to Father Shearman,\* was taken from Oilill Ceatach, a son of Cahir More, king of Ireland in the 2nd century.

The following were the surroundings of Offelan:—On the north, the territories of "Ui Mic Uais" and the "Deise Teamhrach"; the former is now the barony of Lower Moyferath, and the latter the barony of Dease, Co. Meath, whose possessors were expelled in the 3rd century by Cormac, king of Ireland, when they settled in the present Co. Waterford; hence

\* *Vide* Pedigree No. 10 in his *Loca Patriciana*.

the baronies of Decies there. On the north-west, "Cairbre" of the O'Kearys. On the west, Offaly. On the south, Omurethi. And on the east, "Ui Teigh," the tribe-name of the O'Kellys of Cualann, as they were called for distinction; a district probably equivalent to the barony of Lower Talbotstown, in the north-east of the Co. Wicklow; and also "Ui Dunchada," the territory of the MacGillamocholmogs (a name meaning the son of the servant of St. Mocholmog), which consisted of the present baronies of Newcastle and Upper Cross, both in the Co. Dublin.

#### OFFALY.

The territory of Ui Failghe, or Offaly, was so called after Ross (or Rossa) Failghe, *i. e.* Ross of the Rings, the eldest son of Cahir More, king of Ireland.

This territory comprised the present baronies of East and West Offaly, in the Co. Kildare; those of Upper and Lower Philipstown, Geashill, Warrenstown, and Coolestown, all in the King's County; and lastly, those of Portnahinch and Tinnahinch, in the Queen's County. After the adoption of surnames the tribe took the name of "O'Conor," from Conchobhar, the 19th in descent from Cahir More.

Shortly after the Anglo-Norman invasion, the Fitz Gerald's wrested from the O'Conors Faly (so called to distinguish them from the O'Connors of Connaught), those portions of their original territory which are now the baronies of East and West Offaly; thus the ancient district was divided into two portions: (1) Offaly, which gave the title of Baron to the Fitz Gerald's; and (2) Ui Failghe, giving the Irish title of king to the chief of the O'Conors.

The O'Conors remained in great power in their portion of the ancient district till the reign of Philip and Mary, when they were dispossessed, and the O'Dempsey's (a sub-tribe of the O'Conors) became the more powerful, and remained so until the Revolution of 1688.

In the ancient Ui Failghe there were two large and important sub-districts:—

(1) Clann Maolughra, or Clanmaliere, the O'Dempsey territory, from which they took the title of Viscount in 1631, which became extinct in 1714. This sub-district extended on both sides of the River Barrow, and comprised the present barony of Upper Philipstown, in the King's County, and that of Portnahinch, in the Queen's County.



(2) *Ui Riagain*, or *I Regan*, the territory of the *O'Dunnes*, which was coextensive with the barony of *Tinnahinch*, also in the *Queen's County*.

As shown on the annexed map, the *Co. Kildare* portion of *Ui Failghe* is bounded by the other three territories included in the county.

#### OMURETHI.

The last of the territories is that of "*Hy Muireadhaigh*," or *Omurethi*, which was so named after a king of *Leinster* who died in the year 755.

This territory comprised the present baronies of *Kilkea* and *Moone*, *East* and *West Narragh* and *Rheban*, *Kilcullen*, and the lower half of that of *South Naas*. On the adoption of surnames the sept in possession took that of *O'Toole*, from an ancestor named *Tuathal*, who was king of *Leinster*, and died in 926.

After the *Anglo-Norman* invasion the *O'Tooles* were driven from this district by the *Baron Walter de Riddlesford*, and took refuge in the neighbouring mountains of *Wicklow*, where they seized upon *Imaile*, a territory then belonging to the *O'Teige* sept, and settled in it. In after-times they extended their sway, and some of the sept settled in the district of *Fercullen*, which was situated around *Powerscourt*, and was co-extensive with the half-barony of *Rathdown*, adjoining the *Co. Dublin*.

The name of this territory is preserved at the present day in that of "*the Deanery of Omurthi*," which, according to the *Royal Visitation Book of 1615*, comprises the following parishes in the county:—*Athy*, *Castlereban*, *Kilberry*, *Dollardstown*, *Nicholastown*, *Tankardstown*, *Kilkea*, *Grangerosnolvan*, *Belan*, *Castledermot*, *Grange (Graney?)*, *Moone*, *Timolin*, *Narraghmore*, *Kilcullen*, and *Uske*. And this authority adds:—"Adjacent to the deanery of *Omurthi* is the parish church of *Damenoge (Dunmanoge)* and the parish church of *Fontstown (formerly Ballintubber)*."

The boundaries of *Omurethi* were:—On the north, *Offaly* and *Offelan*. On the west, *Leix*, a large district in the *Queen's Co.*, of which the *O'Mores* were the head sept; *Ui Buidhe*,\* a territory of the *O'Kellys*, now the barony of *Ballyadams*, in the *Queen's Co.*, and *Ui Bairrehe*, belonging to the *MaeGormans* (latterly changed to *O'Gorman*), a territory equivalent to the barony of *Slievemargy*, also in the *Queen's Co.* On the

\* Or *Ui Muighe*.

south, a territory called "Fotharta Fea," belonging to the O'Nolans, equivalent to the baronies of Carlow and Forth, Co. Carlow. On the south-east, "Ui Feilmeadha Tuaidh," belonging to the O'Garveys, and co-extensive with the barony of Rathvilly, also in the Co. Carlow. On the east, "I Mail," the O'Teige's country, now the barony of Upper Talbotstown, and "Ui Teigh," the country of the O'Kellys, known as the O'Kelly's "Cualann" (which is a district comprising the northern portion of the Co. Wicklow), to distinguish them from other septs of the same name in the Queen's Co. and elsewhere.

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#### EXPLANATION OF THE NAMES ON THE MAP.

The present form of the ancient names of the places, marked on the Co. Kildare portion of the map, is here given:—

Abhainn Life	=	<i>Avon Liffey, or Liffey.</i>
Aillinn	=	<i>Knockaulin.</i>
Almhuin	=	<i>Hill of Allen.</i>
Baile-atha-ai	=	<i>Athy.</i>
Cairbre Ui Ciardha	=	<i>Carbury of the O'Kearys.</i>
Cill Ausaille	=	<i>Killashee.</i>
Cill Chuilinn	=	<i>Old Kilcullen.</i>
Cill Coice	=	<i>Kilcock.</i>
Cill Dara	=	<i>Kildare.</i>
Claonnadh	=	<i>Clane.</i>
Discart-Diarmada	=	<i>Castledermot.</i>
Hy Muireadhaigh	=	<i>Omurethi.</i>
Iarthear Life	=	<i>Western Liffey.</i>
Mainister-Emhin	=	<i>Monasterevan.</i>
Mullach-Maistin	=	<i>Mullaghmast.</i>
Nas	=	<i>Naas.</i>
Oirthear (or Airthear) Life	=	<i>Eastern Liffey.</i>
Rath Imghain	=	<i>Rathangan.</i>
Teach-Tuae	=	<i>Taghadoe.</i>
Uachtar Ard	=	<i>Oughterard.</i>
Ui Ceataigh	=	<i>Ikeathy.</i>
Ui Failghe	=	<i>Offaly.</i>
Ui Faolain	=	<i>Offelan.</i>

TABLE SHOWING PEDIGREES OF THE COUNTY KILDARE SEPTS:

[To face page 168.]

O'CONORS FALEY.  
O'DEMPSEYS.

O'DUNNES.  
O'BYRNES.

McGILMOHOLMOCKS.  
O'TOOLES.

CATHAEIR "MORE" (the Great), King of  
Ireland; slain A.D. 122.

Rossa Failghe, his eldest son, from whom the  
trihe-name of Ui Failghe was taken.

Nathi.  
Eoghan of Breen da choga (now Breenmore,  
Co. Westmeath).  
Bruidhe.  
Cathal.  
Maelumhaigh.  
Forannan.  
Congalach.  
Diomasaigh.  
Flann Da Chonghal.

Mughron, lord of Ui Failghe, slain at the battle  
of the Curragh in 777.  
Cinaedh, lord of Ui Failghe, died 826.

Flannagan.  
Conchobar, lord of Ui Failghe, hurnt to death in  
the church of Clonfad, Co. Westmeath,  
in 887.  
Maelmordha, lord of Ui Failghe, died 921.  
Finn, tanist of Ui Failghe, slain in 928.  
Conchobhar, lord of Ui Failghe, died 977.  
Conghalach, lord of Ui Failghe, died 1018.  
Conchobhar, from whom the O'Conors took  
their surname.

[Fide the Pedigree of the O'Conors Faley  
given in Keating's "History of Ireland."]

Domhnal (another son of Cinaedh's).  
Aedh.  
Conchobhar.  
Maelughra, from whom the tribe-name of Clan  
Maliere was taken.  
Corcran.  
Diomasaigh, from whom the O'Dempseys took  
their surname.

[Fide O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees."]

WAR-CRIES OF THE SEPTS.

The O'Toole's was "Fennock-a-hoo."  
The O'Byrne's "Shillelagh-a-hoo."  
The O'Conor's "Failiagh-a-hoo."  
The O'More's "Conlan-a-hoo."  
The O'Dunne's "Mullach-a-hoo."

MEANING OF SEPT NAMES.

Bran (*a quo* O'Byrne) = "a raven."  
Tuathal (*a quo* O'Toole) = "princely."  
Donn (*a quo* O'Dunne) = "brown."  
Conchobhar (*a quo* O'Conor) = "strong aid."  
Cairhre (*a quo* Carhury) = "strong man."  
Mae Gilla Mocholmog = "the son of the ser-  
vant of St. Mocholmog."\*

\* *i.e.* Colman (Mo Colman Oge) of Inish-Mo-  
cholmog, in the harony of Arklow, Co. Wicklow;  
his festival was on the 14th of November.

Riagan, from whom the trihe-name of I Regan  
was taken.  
Maelfinn.  
Duhhgilla.  
Donn, from whom the O'Dunnes took their sur-  
name.

[For the O'Dunne's Pedigree *vide* the "Annals  
of the Four Masters" under the year 1448.]

THE ANGLICISED FORMS OF THE NAMES.

Aedh . . . = Hugh.  
Cahir, or Cathair } = Charles.  
Cathal . . . }  
Ceallach . . . = Kelly.  
Cinaedh . . . = Kenny.  
Conchobhar . . = Conor.  
Diarmaid . . . = Dermot.  
Diomasaigh . . = Dempsey.  
Domhnal . . . = Donnell.  
Dunlang . . . = Doolan.  
Dunchadh . . . = Donough.  
Eoghan . . . = Owen.  
Faelan . . . = Phelan.  
Lorcan . . . = Laurence.  
Muireadhaigh . = Murray.  
Murchadh . . . = Murrrough.  
Riagan . . . = Regan.  
Ruadhrach . . = Rory.  
Tuathal . . . = Toole.

Faelan, died 737; from him the tribe-name of  
Ui Faolain was taken.  
Ruadhrach, King of Leinster, died 780.  
Diarmaid, lord of Airhear-Life, died in 831.  
Muiregan, lord of Nas and Aither-Life, slain by  
the Norsemen 861.  
Maelmordha, lord of Aither-Life, was slain by  
the Danes at the battle of Confey, near  
Leixlip, in 915.  
Finn, tanist of Leinster, slain in 921.  
Murchadh, King of Leinster, slain 970.  
Maelmordha, King of Leinster, slain at the battle  
of Clontarf in 1014.  
Bran, King of L., from whom the O'Brains, or  
O'Byrnes, took their surname; he died in  
1018 in consequence of being blinded by  
Sitric, Danish King of Dublin.

[For the O'Byrne Pedigree *vide* the "Annals  
of the Four Masters" under the year 1580.]

Coats of Arms of the Septs.

O'CONOR FALHY.—Argent, on a mount in base  
vert, an oak-tree acorned proper.

O'BYRNE.—Gules, a chevron between three  
dexter hands couped at the wrist argent.

*Crest.*—A mermaid, with comb and mirror all  
proper.

O'TOOLE.—Gules, a lion passant argent.

*Crest.*—A hoar passant proper.

CAREY.—Gules, a chevron between three lions'  
heads erased or, on a chief per fesse nebulee ar-  
gent and azure, a pale of the last charged with a  
pelican close of the third, vulning her breast of  
the field.

*Crest.*—A wolf passant regardant per pale  
argent and gules, holding in the mouth a rose  
branch flowered of the second, leaved and stalked  
vert.

Dunchadh, slain at the battle of Knoekaulin,  
near Kileullen, in 722; from him the trihe-  
name of "Ui Dunchadha" was taken.  
Ceallach, King of Leinster, died 771.

Bran.  
Muireadhaigh.

Faelan, King of Leinster, died of a fall at "Ae-  
nach Colmain (*i.e.* Colman's Fair) held on  
the Curragh in 940.

Lorcan, King of Leinster, slain by the Norsemen  
in 941.  
Dunchadh.

Gilla Mocholmog, from whom the Mc Gilmo-  
holmochs took their surname.

[For the Pedigree of the Mc Gilmo-  
holmochs *vide* the "Annals of the Four Masters" under the year  
1044.]

Fiacha "Baiccadh," the lame (his youngest son).

Brcasal "Bealach," the freckled.

Enna Niadh.

Dunlang, King of Leinster, living in 241.

Oilill.

Faelan.

Dunlang.

Oilill, King of L., died 526.

Cormac, King of L., died 536.

Cairbre "Dubh" (the dark), King of L., died 546.

Colman, King of L., died on Slieve-Maragy,  
Queen's Co., in 576.

Faelan, King of L., died 665.

Conall.

Bran "Mut" (the silent), King of L., died 687.

Murchadh, King of L., died 721.

Muireadhaigh, King of L., died in 755; from  
him the trihe-name of Hy Muireadhaigh  
was taken.

Bran, King of L., died 790.

Muireadhaigh, "half King" of Leinster with  
Muireadhaigh, son of Ruadhrach; died  
813.

Dunlang, King of L., died 867.

Ailill, King of L., slain by the Norsemen in 869.

Ugair, King of L., slain by the Danes at the  
battle of Confey, near Leixlip, in 915.

Tuathal, King of Leinster, died 956; from whom  
the O'Tuathals, or O'Tooles, took their  
surname.

[For the Pedigree of the O'Tooles *vide* the  
"Annals of the Four Masters" under the year  
1590.]

NOTE.—The "Annals of the Four Masters" above referred to  
is O'Donovan's Edition in 7 vols.



“*ST. BRIGID OF KILDARE.*”

By THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.

THE name Brigid, *Brigit* in Irish, as we learn from Cormac Mac Cullenan’s ancient Glossary of the Irish tongue, was given to the goddess of poetry in ancient times. Others will have it to mean a fiery dart. So much for the name.

Her manner of life is summed up briefly in the *Martyrology of Tallaght*, which says, “Brigid was following the manners and the life which holy Mary, mother of Jesus, had.” And the *Martyrology of Donegal*, after quoting this passage, goes on to say: “It was this Brigid too that did not take her mind or her attention from the Lord for the space of one hour at any time, but was constantly mentioning Him and ever thinking of Him, as is evident in her own *Life* and in the *Life* of St. Brendan of Clonfert. She was very hospitable and very charitable to guests and to needy people. She was humble, and attended to the herding of sheep and early rising, as her *Life* proves, and as Cuimin of Condure states. Thus he says:—

“The blessed Brigid loved  
Constant piety, which was not prescribed,  
Sheep-herding and early rising,  
Hospitality towards men of virtues.”

She spent seventy-four years diligently serving the Lord, performing signs and miracles, curing every disease and sickness in general, until she yielded up her spirit.”

Whosoever wishes to know in greater detail the life of this Saint will find it in the great work of Fr. John Colgan. He was of the Franciscan order, the same which had convents at Clane, Kildare, Castledermot, and in several other places of this county, as well as in nearly every other county in Ireland, numbering in all about sixty in the middle of the 16th century. This great man, not being able, for reasons which I need not enter into here, to find at home the education which he needed, went in search of it to Spain. The greater part of his life was passed in the Franciscan College of Louvain, founded in 1609 by the generosity of Philip III., and the Archdukes Albert and Isabella. There from 1626 to 1658, the year of his death, he devoted himself to bringing together and illustrating the *Lives* of Irish saints. He intended his work to extend over six

folio volumes. Unhappily, he lived to complete only two of these—one the *Lives* of the Irish saints whose feast days occur in the three first months of the year, and another volume, comprising the *Lives* of three patrons of Ireland, Patrick, Columcille, and Brigid. Of the value set on these books at the present day we may judge from the fact that Dr. Reeves' copy of the first fetched, at a sale held a few weeks since in Dublin, £31; and the other volume was bought a year or two ago from a Dublin bookseller for £18, and by a lawyer too, who, I am sure, knew well what he was about and thought his investment a safe one.

Of that second volume, containing the *Lives* of the three patrons, the last of the three parts is taken up with the history of St. Brigid, and this is the storehouse in which those who write of her find ample materials. It extends from p. 513 to p. 649. It bears the title: *The various Acts of St. Brigid, the Virgin, Abbess of Kildare, founder of the Brigittine Order, and common patron of all Ireland.* Now these Acts comprise six different *Lives* of the saints, all of them ancient, some of them from very remote times.

The first of them is contained in a hymn in very ancient Irish, written by St. Broegan Claen, abbot of Rosturk, in Ossory, on "The Titles and Miracles of the Saint." Side by side with the Irish hymn Colgan gives a Latin translation. As is the custom in such Irish works of ancient date, it is prefaced by a few lines telling when, where, and why it was written. "The place," it says, "in which this hymn was composed was Slieve Bloom, or Chuan St. Maedog, and it was composed in the time of Lughaidh, son of Leoghaire, king of Ireland, when Aelider, son of Dunlang, was king of Leinster; and the reason of its being composed was that Ultan of Ardraccan asked Broegan to describe in verse the acts and virtues of Brigid. It begins thus:—

" Brigid did not love the pride of life."

And it goes on:—

" She was not querulous, not evil-minded ;  
 She did not love fierce wrangling such as women practise,  
 She was not a venomous serpent or untruthful,  
 Nor did she sell the Son of God for things that fade.  
 She was not harsh to strangers,  
 She used to treat the wretched lepers kindly ;  
 She built her dwelling on the plain  
 Which was frequented by vast crowds after her death.  
 There are two holy virgins in heaven,  
 Mary and holy Brigid ;  
 May they protect me by their mighty help."

And so for 53 stanzas of four lines each. Some think this *Life* was written so far back as the sixth century. If it was written at the suggestion of St. Ultan, we must take it to be a century later, *i. e.* eleven or twelve hundred years ago.

The second *Life* is by Cogitosus. It is in Latin prose. Most probably he was a monk of the monastery of Kildare that was under the rule of St. Brigid in ancient times, for he describes, in great detail, the architecture, ornaments, and arrangements of the church, as if he had it before his eyes every day. From his omitting all mention of the ravages of the Danes and of some of the Irish chiefs in the early part of the ninth century, it has been correctly inferred that he wrote before 835, the year when the foreigners first plundered Kildare. “Cilldara,” say the *Annals of the Four Masters*, “was plundered by the foreigners of Inver Dea, *i. e.* Wicklow, and half the church was burned by them.” Cogitosus says, “Kildare was a sanctuary, or place of refuge, where there could be no danger of the attack of an enemy.” The *Life* begins thus: “You oblige me, brethren, to make an attempt to set down in writing the virtues and deeds of Brigid of holy and blessed memory, as if I were one of the learned. The burthen you lay on me, lowly and weak as I am, ignorant too of the niceties of language, is to tell in a fitting way of her who is the head of nearly all the churches of Ireland, and the summit towering above all the monasteries of the Scoti; whose power extends over the whole of Ireland, stretching from sea to sea; the abbess who dwells in the plain of the Liffey, whom all the abbesses of the Scoti venerate.” And he ends thus: “I ask pardon from the brethren, and from all who may read this, for, urged on by obedience, not supported by any excellence of learning, I have traversed this vast ocean of the virtues of St. Brigid, one to be dreaded even by the bravest men.” This *Life* is published in the Bollandist *Acta Sanctorum* for February 1st.

The third *Life* is by St. Ultan, of Ardraccan, in Meath, the same who induced St. Breogan to write the metrical *Life* already mentioned. The manuscript from which this *Life* was printed was found by F. Stephen White, S.J., in a monastery at Ratisbon; it was collated with another found in the monastery of St. Albert, at Cambray. Though there may be some doubts about the authorship, still that it is very ancient Colgan infers from the fact that most of the manuscripts which contain it were admitted to be five hundred years old, some of them seven hundred, in his time, *i. e.* in the middle of the seventeenth century. This would take the composition of it back to the year 1000.

The 4th *Life* is by Anmchad, Latinized Animosus: it is in Latin metre. Who this Anmchad was — whether he was Bishop of Kildare and died in 980, or another — we have not sufficient grounds for saying with anything like certainty. The work seems to be that of one well acquainted with Kildare and its surroundings, and is more detailed than the others already mentioned. It begins thus: “Brethren, my mind is disturbed by three things—by love, which forces me to set down in writing the Life of St. Brigid, so that the great virtues which she practised, and the wonders which she wrought, may not be forgotten; next by shame, lest my uncouth and simple language may displease the learned and wise men who may read, or hear read, what I am going to write. But fear disturbs me still more, for I am too weak to undertake this work. I fear the sneers of unjust critics, who will scrutinize this work of mine as they do their food. But as the Lord ordered the poor among the people to offer to Him things mean and worthless in themselves for the building of the tabernacle, should not we too make an offering to build up His Church? And what is it but the congregation of the just?”

The 5th *Life* is the work of Laurence of Durham, a Benedictine monk, who lived about the year 1100. It was taken from a manuscript in the Irish College of Salamanca, the same which the Marquis of Bute lately published in a magnificent quarto volume, edited by the Bollandists.

Lastly, there is the *Life* by St. Caelan, a monk of Iniscealtra, in the Shannon, near Scariff. It is in Latin hexameters. It was discovered by an Irish Benedictine in the library of the mother-house of the Order, at Monte Cassino. The author lived in the first half of the eighth century. Prefixed to it is a beautiful poem on Ireland by St. Donatus, bishop of Fiesole, of whom Miss Stokes has given an account in her last book, *Six Months in the Apennines*, who lived a century later.

Besides, there are most valuable appendices:—

1. Offices to be said on the feast—one printed in Venice, in 1522; another in Paris, in 1622; a third in Genoa, not dated; a fourth used by the Canons of St. John of Lateran.

2. Extracts from the *Lives* of other saints relating to St. Brigid.

3. Accounts of her ancestors, death, her birthday, the number of years she lived, her place of burial.

4. The devotion to the Saint in Ireland and in other countries.

5. The history of the church of Kildare, its bishops, and the ravages by the Danes.



These are the *Lives* given by Colgan in the *Trias*. I should weary you if I enumerated to you the others that are now known, not only those written by her own countrymen, as that of Dr. Rothe, bishop of Ossory, *On Brigid, the Worker of Miracles*, but by French, Italian, German, Flemish, English, and Scottish writers. Even in our time her life has been written by Rev. S. Baring-Gould and by Dr. Forbes, bishop of Brechin. I need hardly say that no subject is oftener met with in our ancient Irish manuscripts than that of St. Brigid's life. Dr. Whitley Stokes has published an ancient Irish *Life* of the Saint from the *Book of Lismore*. Those who wish to know the Saint's life in detail, and the literature connected with it, will find all they can desire in the Rev. Canon O'Hanlon's *Lives of the Irish Saints*, ii. 1.

The pedigree of St. Brigid is given in the *Book of Leinster*. She was the daughter of Dubtach, son of Demri, son of Bresil, son of Den, son of Conla, son of Art Corb, son of Cairbre, son of Cormac, son of Enghus Mean, son of Eochaidh Finn, son of Feidlimidh Rechtmar, who was ardrigh or chief monarch of Ireland, A.D. 111. Her father is said to have been a great and mighty chief, *Dux magnus et potens*. Dr. Todd gives her genealogy and that of St. Columba, and shows they were descended from a common ancestor, Ugony Mor, supreme monarch of Ireland A.M. 4546. Her mother, Brotseach, is said to have been a slave; but it is far more probable that she too was of noble birth, being the daughter of Dallbronach of the Dail Concobair in South Bregia. The *Martyrology of Donegal* says St. Ultan of Ardraccon was her brother. Her birthplace was Fochart Muirthemhne, now Fochart, which is three miles north-west of Dundalk; the dun there was possibly the site of her father's dwelling. There are remains of an old church dedicated to her, and close by is a holy well bearing her name, surmounted by a conical roof. Whether this building is of very remote date I cannot say, not having yet seen it. A stone, too, is pointed out in which it is said she was laid immediately after her birth. Such another stone we find at Gartan, the birthplace of St. Columba. The people of Donegal think that by lying on it before they set out for a foreign land, they will be freed from all danger of home-sickness. St. Bernard, in his *Life of St. Malachy*, makes mention of “the village of Fochart, which they say is the birthplace of Brigid the virgin.” This is close to the spot where Edward Bruce was slain in the year 1318.

Her parents wished to give her in marriage to a chief who sought her as wife. But she desired to devote herself wholly to

the service of God and the poor. Other maidens followed her example, and joined her. They went to St. Macaille, bishop of Hy Failge. One of his clerics told him who she was, and why she and her companions had come to him. He placed the veil on her head, in token of her consecration to God in the religious state. So St. Broegan Claen, in his hymn :

Posuit bonis avibus Maccalleus velum  
Super caput sanctæ Brigidæ,  
Clarus est in ejus gestis.

It would seem that she founded a religious establishment first near Uisneagh, in Westmeath. After a while she went, with her disciples, to Connaught, and dwelt in Magh Aoi, a district between Elphin and Roscommon, possibly at a place now bearing her name, called Killbride, in the parish of Killacken. The people of Leinster, hearing of the wonders she wrought, besought her to return to her native province, and she determined to establish her monastery among them. She was welcomed by all. Drum Criadh seemed to her a fit place for her purpose; a large oak spread its branches around. "This," Animosus tells us, "she loved very much, and she blessed it. Its stem and roots remain to this day." The date of her settling there is not certain; it is presumed to have been 470; others say 480 and 484. This house, small and mean at first, grew to a great size, and soon it became the head of some hundreds of such houses, scattered throughout the country. Owing to her great repute, Kildare was for a while the metropolitan see of Leinster.

The precise date of her death is not known. We shall not be much astray if we take that given by Colgan, namely, A.D. 523; nor is it known what her age was at her death. Colgan, who set down her birth as 439, would, consequently, make her more than fourscore, while others say she died at the age of seventy.

Cogitosus says she was buried at Kildare. Indeed, he describes the shrines in which her remains and those of St. Conlaeth, the first bishop of this See, were preserved. He says they were ornamented with gold and silver, and precious stones; and crosses of gold and silver were suspended close by, one on the right side, the other on the left. He goes on to describe how the church grew in size, its extent, and the different parts and divisions of it; the door by which the priest, "cum regulari schola," with his school of religious, entered, that by which the men entered, and the third, by which the women were admitted.

I am aware that some have held she was buried at Downpatrick immediately after her death ; but that can hardly be, from what I have said above. Except by the fact of her relics being preserved at Kildare, it is impossible to account for “ the vast crowds, the numberless multitudes, that came there from all the provinces of Ireland on her feast day, some for the plentiful banquets given them ; others who were sick and diseased, coming to get back their health ; others with gifts. All these came on the 1st of February, the day she cast off the burthen of the flesh, and followed the Lamb of God to the heavenly dwelling.” So Cogitosus. Later, very possibly to preserve her relics from the devastations of the Danes, from which Kildare seemed to have suffered oftener than any other place, they may have been removed to Down. Colgan thinks the removal may have taken place in the ninth century ; and so the words of the distych would be verified—

Hi tres in Duno tumulo tumulantur in uno,  
Brigida, Patricius, atque Columba pius.

Others will have it that John De Courcy got some of her relics transported there, in order to increase the importance of Down, which was the capital of his possessions. It would seem that the precise place where the bodies of the three Saints were laid was somehow forgotten. It is said that it was revealed to Bishop Malachy in 1189, and that the remains were transferred with great solemnity into the interior of the church soon after. When the relics of these Saints were destroyed, in the sixteenth century, during the deputyship of Lord Leonard Gray, St. Brigid’s head was saved by some of the clergy, who carried it to Neustadt, in Austria. In 1587 it was presented to the church of the Society of Jesus at Lisbon by the Emperor Rudolph II.

A few words in conclusion on the extent of the veneration shown to this saint. “ So famous is the renown of this holy virgin,” says Hector Boetius, “ that the Scots, the Picts, the Irish, and those who live near them, the English, put her next after the Virgin Mother of God.” And Alanus Copus : “ She is most famous, not only among the Scots, the English, and the Irish, but churches are named after her throughout the whole world.” “ Her feast,” F. Stephen White tells us, “ was celebrated in every cathedral church from the Grisons to the German Sea, for nearly a thousand years.” Cogitosus, in a passage given above, speaks of the veneration in which she was held by all the abbesses of the Scoti. The *Book of Leinster* gives a list of some thirty religious houses of women which

were under her obedience in ancient times. Here are some places in the diocese of Dublin which still bear her name. We have Bride's Church, a parish church, Bride's street, Bride's alley, Bride's hospital; chapels dedicated to St. Brigid at Killobery, Swords, Ward, Tully, Tallaght, Kilbride near Rathfarnham. In Kildare—Kildare itself, Rosenallis, Cloncurry, Rathbride, Rathdrum. At Armagh there was a church and convent of women bearing her name, of which Dr. Reeves speaks in his *Ancient Churches of Armagh*. Wells bearing her name: Bride street, St. Margaret's, Clondalkin, Swords, Clonskeagh, Rosslare, Ballysadare, Ballintobber, Kilcock, Buttevant, Tuam, Birchfield, near Ennistymon. Hospitals—Kilmainham, Carrickfergus, Dungarvan, Kells, and Galway. In the Ordnance Survey list of Irish townlands there are thirty-six Kilbrides. In Australia, America, wherever the Irish people are—and where are they not?—will be found churches, and schools, and convents bearing her name; no diocese without one at least; in some several, as in the diocese of Boston, four churches. And if we go to the Continent of Europe, we shall find her name wherever Irish missionaries have set foot—at Amiens, St. Omer, Besançon, Tours, Cologne, Fulda, at Fossey, in the diocese of Namur, at Seville, and Lisbon. An interesting fact bearing on what I have just said has been told me by the parish priest of Kildare. Very lately he received a letter from a parish priest in the neighbourhood of Aix-la-Chapelle, requesting of him a relic, however small, of St. Brigid; his parish church was dedicated to her, and on her feast, February 1st, there was a great concourse of the people to it in her honour. Few things are more touching than the casual inscription which one meets with at times on the margin of an old manuscript in St. Gall or Milan, the work of an Irish scribe in a foreign land; his labour is tedious and trying, working out these endless spirals and convolutions of the *Opus Hibernicum*; or it may be that a feeling of home-sickness has suddenly come on him, a fond longing to see once more "the fair hills of Eire," and he stops awhile, and instinctively turns his thoughts to her who is the pride and glory of his race, "Margareta Hiberniæ," the pearl of Ireland, and its protectress, and he writes: "St. Brigid, aid me in the laborious task which I have undertaken," or "St. Brigid, pray for us."



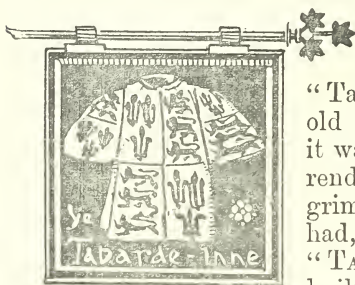
“ If drawn by business to a street unknown  
Let the sworn porter point thee through the town ;  
Be sure observe the signs, for signs remain,  
Like faithful landmarks, to the walking train.”

GAY, *Trivia*.

**T**HE use and custom of inns and hostelries “ for the entertainment of man and beast ” and other establishments bearing sign-boards, with heraldic or allusive devices of some kind, is a relic of the good old barbarous times when reading and writing were the gifts of the few. A bunch of grapes at the house-door, an optician’s spectacles, or a gold-beater’s arm and hammer represent the business done within symbolically, and are understood at a glance by the most unlettered. From very early times this was the only way such places were distinguished. Many of these old signs remain to the present day, and will be in the recollection of everyone ; for as houses in London streets were not numbered till 1764, every house, or place of business, was known by its own sign— a lamb, a bear, an eagle, a wolf, a vat, a ball of wool, &c.

It is related in the life of Fuller, the divine, who died in 1681, as an instance of his prodigious memory, that he undertook once, in passing to and from Temple Bar to the farthest point in Cheapside, to tell at his return every sign as it stood in order on both sides of the way.

English literature abounds with descriptions and references to scenes enacted at famous inns and places of public resort. First and foremost of the ancient hostelries of Southwark, and



one which retained most of its ancient features down to a comparatively recent date, was the "Tabarde Inn."\* Regarding this old inn, *Old and New London* says it was "renowned by Chaucer as the rendezvous of the Canterbury pilgrims 500 years ago." Its name had, however, been changed to the "TALBOT." The old "Tabarde" was built by the Abbot of Hyde in 1307, and he built it not only as an hotel

for his brethren, but also for the accommodation of the numerous pilgrims resorting to the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket, at Canterbury. It was here Chaucer and the nine-and-twenty pilgrims met and agreed to enliven their pilgrimage by reciting tales, to shorten the way, resulting in that delightful and varied series of stories, *The Canterbury Tales*, which paint in the most vivid colours the manners and customs of his time.

A festive place of resort of great antiquity was the "Boar's Head Tavern," in Great Eastcheap, first mentioned in the reign of Richard II., and commemorated by Shakespeare as the scene of the revels of Falstaff and Prince Henry. The tavern was destroyed by the great fire of 1666, but rebuilt immediately after, as attested by the boar's head, cut in stone, with the initials of the landlord, I. T., and the date 1668 above the first-floor window.

One of the most celebrated of the old London taverns was the "Mermaid," in Bread-street. We find it mentioned as early as 1464. In 1603 Sir Walter Raleigh established a literary club in this house, and here Shakespeare, Ben Jonson, and the choice intellectual spirits of the time used to meet, and there took place those wit combats which Beaumont has commemorated, and Fuller described. It is frequently alluded to

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\* Tabard is the name given to surcoats embroidered with the king's arms, and worn by heralds and pursuivants of arms upon great festivals and other public occasions. In an exhaustive article in *The Herald and Genealogist*, vol. i., p. 236, the writer says: "Whether the famous Inn in Southwark had for its sign a tabard of arms may well be doubted. Modern painters, when illustrating Chaucer, have taken that fact for granted; but it is more probable that the waggons and countrymen of Kent and Surrey were invited to gather under the sign of the familiar *smock frock*."

by Beaumont and Fletcher in their comedies, but best known is that quotation from a letter of Beaumont to Ben Jonson:—

“What things have we seen  
 Done at the Mermaid? Heard words that have been  
 So nimble and so full of subtle flame,  
 As if that anyone from whence they came  
 Had meant to put his whole wit in a jest,  
 And had resolved to live a fool the rest  
 Of his dull life: then, when there had been thrown  
 Wit able enough to justify the town  
 For three days past; wit that might warrant be  
 For the whole city to talk foolishly;  
 Till that was cancelled; and when that was gone,  
 We left an air behind us, which alone  
 Was able to make the next two companies  
 (Right witty, though but downright fools) more wise.”

The different events of history which have furnished subjects for signs are particularly interesting, and far from uncommon;—as the “White Hart” of Richard II., “Red and White Roses” of Lancaster and York, the “White Swan” of Henry V., the “Red Dragon and Greyhound” of the Tudors, the “Boar’s Head” of Richard III., the “Royal Oak” of Charles, the “White Horse” of the Brunswicks. Heads also formed a very numerous class, especially those of royalty; but were especially subject to transmutation by the accession of new sovereigns, who in their turn occupied the place of the late one. In like manner, the “Duke’s Head,” which in the time of Blenheim implied the hero Marlborough, was changed to His Royal Highness the Duke of York, or His Grace of Wellington.

It was no uncommon practice for publicans and others to decorate their house-fronts by hanging out their own portraits, as did Taylor, the “water poet,” in Phoenix-alley, near Long Acre; witness his own words:—

“There’s many a head stands for a sign;  
 Then, gentle reader, why not mine?”

The heads of “Homer, Horace, Cicero, Milton, Shakspeare,” &c., were also used as signs by booksellers. The head of “Esculapius,” his “Serpent and Staff,” or his “Cock” were appropriate signs for professors of the healing art, as well as the head of “Galen,” or the “Phoenix” arising from the flames, which are still to be found decorating our modern druggist shops.

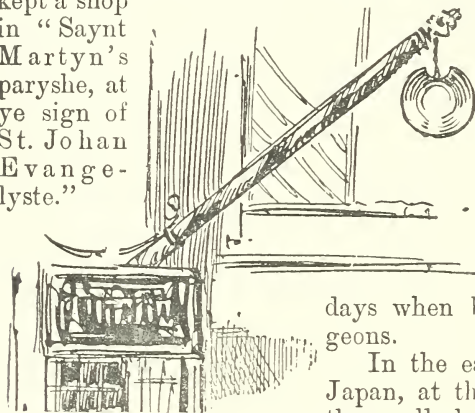
Dragons, mermaids, golden fleece, and other nondescripts of mythology and their attributes are more rare.

It may not be inappropriate to note that it was at the sign of the “Red Bull” the first edition of *King Lear* was published;

at the "Green Dragon" the first edition of the *Merchant of Venice* was issued. The sign of Alderman Boydell was the "Unicorn," at the corner of Queen-street, Cheapside.

Sir Thomas Gresham, founder of the Royal Exchange, in 1560, was appointed ambassador at the Court of the Duchy of Parma, regent of the Netherlands, and received thereon from Elizabeth the honour of knighthood, which was a real distinction in these days. Notwithstanding this promotion, he continued business as a merchant-adventurer and banker, and kept his shop open in Lombard-street, with a great grasshopper (his family crest) over his door as a sign.

Perhaps the signs of most frequent occurrence are those appropriated to the Evangelists, as the eagle of St. John, the lion of St. Mark, the ox of St. Luke. Robert Wyer, in 1527, kept a shop in "Saynt Martyn's paryshe, at ye sign of St. Johan Evange-lyste."



A lingering relic of the old custom of exhibiting trade symbols we still meet in the "barber's pole," and brass shaving dish dangling from it; the striped and twisted colours represented the bandaged limb, telling of the

days when barbers were also surgeons.

In the east, even in far-away Japan, at the present day we find the well-known sign of "the

Bush" outside a Saké shop, the same as that used in England in old times. The bush was a tavern sign in ancient Rome, which gave rise to the proverb "vino vendibili suspensa hedera non opus est"—good wine needs no bush—whence our sign of "the Bush." The Greeks and Romans appear to have used symbolic sign-boards. Thus Aristotle says, "As with things drawn above the shops, which, though they are small, appear to have breadth and depth." And Athenæus, "He hung the well-known sign in the front of his house." From the many similar references it would seem that the custom was very prevalent.

The incorporated companies and trade guilds of old London and many of the provincial towns had each their coat-of-arms and trade devices, which their members exhibited as signs of their trade or profession. Are we in want, and possess valu-



ables?—the well-known sign of “mine uncle,” the three golden balls of the pawnbroker, invite us to be relieved of our distresses. It is interesting to know that this famous sign is derived from the shield of the Medici family, and was the arms of Lombardy, which nation introduced over Europe the system of lending money on the security of articles of value.

*The History of Signboards*, a book of 536 pages, by Jacob Larwood and John Camden Holten, contains an amazing mass of information on the subject from the earliest times to the present day. From this source we quote a list of signs originated from badges, transcribed from Bagford’s MS. notes about the art of printing (in the Harleian MSS.), “in all the unrestrained freedom of Bagford’s spelling, in which, as in writing, he surpassed all his contemporaries”\*:—

“Then for ye original of signes used to be set over ye douers of tradesmen, as Inkeepers, Taverns, &c., they having been domestic saruants to some nobleman, they leaving ther Masters sarvis toke to themselves for ther signes ye crest, bag (badge), or ye armes of ther Ld., and ther was a distincion or Mark of one Mannes house from anouther, and (not) only by painters but all outhr trades: and these seruants of kinges, queenes, or noblemen, being ther domestick saruants, and wor ther Leuir (liveries) and Bages, as may be sene these day ye maner of the Leuir and Bagges by ye watermen:—

THE ANTELOP was ye bag of Kg. Henry ye 8, as well as ye PORCULOUSES and ye ROSE AND CROWN.  
 ANCOR, GOULD, ye Ld. of Lincolne and ye Lord High Admirall.  
 BULL, BLACK, with gould hornes, ye House of Clarence.  
 BULL, DUN, ye Lord Nevill, Westmoreland, Burgayne, Latimer, and Southampton.  
 BOUR, WHITE, ye Lord Winsor; BLEU, with a MULLIT, ye Earl of Oxford.  
 BUCKET AND CHANE, ye Lord Wills.  
 BARE AND RAGGED STAFFE, ye Earle of Lester.  
 BARE, BLACK, ye Earle of Warwicke.  
 BARE, WHITE, ye Earle of Kent.  
 BEARS HEAD MUSELED, ye Lord Morley.  
 ROE BUCK, ye Lord Montacute.  
 BULL’S HEAD erased: WHITE, ye Ld. Wharton; RED, ye Lord Ogle.  
 CRESCENT OR HALFE MOUNE, ye Earle of Northumberland and ye Temporalati.  
 CONDY, BLACK, ye Ld. Bray.  
 CAT, ye Lord Euers; CAT OF MOUNT AND LEPER (leopard), Mar. of Worster, and ye Ld. Buckhurst.  
 PEACOCKE, ye Earle of Rutland.  
 PLUM OF FFEATHERS, ye Earle of Lincolne; azure, ye Lord Scrope.  
 RAUEN, *White*, ye Earle of Cumberland.  
 RAUEN, *Blacke*, ye King of Scots.  
 SWANE, ye Ducke of Buckingham, Gloster, Hartford, Hunsdon, Stafford.

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\* *History of Signboards*, p. 133.

- SUNE, YE SPIRITUALLATY, ye Lord Willoby and York.  
 STAFFE : *White Ragged*, Warwick ; *Black*, Kent.  
 Starre, ye Earle of Sussex and ye Lord Fitzwalter.  
 Sarason Head, ye Ld. Audley and ye Ld. Cobham.  
 Talbot, ye Earl of Shrewsbury and ye Lord Montagew.  
 Tiger's head, Sr. Ffrancis Walsingam.  
 White-sheafe, ye Earle of Exeter, ye Lord Burley, etc.  
 Ape, clogged, ye House of Suffolke.  
 Butter Flie, white, ye Lord Audle.  
 Camel, ye Earle of Worster.  
 Ye 3 Fluor de Luses, ye King of France.  
 Fooles Head, ye Earle of Bath.  
 Grayhond, ye Lord Clinton ; white, ye Fameley of ye Druries.  
 Grayhondes Head, ye Lord Rich.  
 Hart, white, Kg. Richard ye 2 and Sir Walter Rowley (Raleigh).  
 Horse, white, ye Earle of Arondele.  
 Hornes, 2 of seluer (silver), ye Ld. Cheney.  
 Milsale or Windmil, ye lord Willobe.  
 Rose in ye Sunbeams, ye Ld. Warden of ye 8 ports.  
 Spearhead, Pembroke.  
 Vnicorne, white, ye Ld. Windsor.  
 Crosses and Mitters, and Cross Keyes, Archbishop and Bishops,  
 Abbots.  
 Cardinales Capes or Hat, you haue not maney of them, the wor set up  
 by sume that had ben seruants of Tho. Wollsey.  
 Dragon : Black, Wilsher (Wiltshire) and Clifford ; Red, Cumberland ;  
 Greene, ye Earle of Pembroke.  
 Eagle, ye Earle of Cambridge ; Eagle and Childe, ye Earle of Derby.  
 Black, ye Lord Norris.  
 Eagle, Spread, ye Emperour.  
 Elephant, Sr. Ffrances Knowles (and Henry Wyke, a printer, living in  
 Fletestrete, 1570, was saruant to Sr. Ffr. Knowles, gaue ye  
 Elephant For his signe), and likewise it was ye bag of ye Lord  
 Beaumont and ye Ld. Sandes.  
 Phenix, ye Lord Hertford, and ye sign that—Mansell (set up), Copper,  
 &c. (a transcript added to these the names of Archbishops  
 Parker and Jugge).  
 Ffox, Red, Gloster and ye Bishop of Winchester.  
 Ffalcone, ye Marquess of Winchester ; armed and collared, ye Ld.  
 St. John and Ld. Zouch.  
 Gripes Ffoot, ye Ld. Stanley.  
 Gotte, ye Earle of Bedford.  
 Greyhond, ye Ld. Clenton, Deuery, and ye Lord Rich.  
 Griffen, ye Ld. Wintworth.  
 Harpe, For Irland.  
 Hedge-Hog, Sr. Henery Sidney ; Will. Seeres was his printer.  
 Hind, Sr. Christopher Haton ; Hen. Beneyman his printer.  
 Lock, ye House of Suffolke. Such a sign without Temple Bar.  
 Lion, Bleu, Denmarke.  
 Lion, Red, Rampant, Scotland.  
 Lion, White, passant, ye Earle of March.  
 Lion, White, Rampant, Norfolk, and all ye Howardes.  
 Maiden Head, ye Duck of Buckingham.  
 Portcullis, ye Earle of Somerset, Wayles, and ye Lord of Worster.  
 The Pye, ye Ld. Reuiers (Rivers).  
 Pelican, ye Lord Cromwell."

In Heywood's *Rape of Lucrece*, first edition, 1608, is a characteristic song, which particularly relates to our signs:—

“ The gentry to the *King's Head*,  
 The nobles to the *Crown*,  
 The knights unto the *Golden Fleece*,  
 And to the *Plough* the clown ;  
 The churchman to the *Mitre*,  
 The shepherd to the *Star*,  
 The gardener hies him to the *Rose*,  
 To the *Drum* the man-of-war ;  
 To the *Feathers*, ladies, you ; the *Globe*  
 The seamen doth not scorn ;  
 The usurer to the *Devil*, and  
 The townsman to the *Horn*.  
 The huntsman to the *White Hart*,  
 To the *Ship* the merchants go,  
 But you that do the muses love  
 The sign called *River Po*.  
 The banquerout to the *World's End*,  
 The fool to the *Fortune* hie ;  
 Unto the *Mouth* the oyster-wife,  
 The fiddler to the *Pie*,  
 The punk unto the *Cockatrice*,  
 The drunkard to the *Vine*,  
 The beggar to the *Bush*, there meet,  
 And with *Duke Hunphrey dine*.”

*Illustrated Magazine of Art*, vol. ii., p. 74.





## ANCIENT NAAS.

BY THOMAS J. DE BURGH, D. L.

### I.—THE CHRONICLE.

**N**AAS or Nas (Celtic), or le Nas (in mediæval times), means a fair, a place of meeting, or place of the elders: Ænach or Nas was an assembly of the people for any purpose.

Bardic history relates that it was founded by Lewy of the Long Hand, and according to an ancient tradition the original founders commenced the building of the town somewhere in the townland of Broadfield. Naas was the capital of the district called Airthir Lifé or Maistean, and in the sixth, seventh, and eighth centuries the States of Leinster assembled here after the Naasteighan of Carmen\* had been anathemized by the Christian clergy.

Tuathal Teachtmair, King of Ireland, who died about 160 A.D., had two beautiful daughters, Fithir and Darina. Eochy Aincheaun, King of Leinster, married Darina and carried her to his palace at Naas. Eochy determined by stratagem to obtain Fithir also to wife. For this purpose he shut Darina up in an apartment of his palace, and gave out a report that she was dead. He then repaired to Tara, and, with great appearance of grief, informed Tuathal that his daughter was dead, and asked for her sister. Tuathal consented, and Eochy returned home with his new wife. Soon afterwards, however, Darina, escaping from her prison, unexpectedly met her husband and her sister. The latter fell dead before her face, and the young queen soon died of a broken heart. Tuathal, at the head of a powerful force, avenged the insult to his daughter by conquering and beheading

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\* Stated by some to be the Moat of Mullaghmast, near Athy, but which I believe to be Tara in Meath.

Eochy, ravaging and burning Leinster to its utmost boundary, and laid the inhabitants under a heavy tribute called "Boromeau" \* from the great number of cows demanded by it.

This tribute of 6000 cows, 6000 ounces of silver, 6000 richly woven mantles, 6000 fat hogs, 6000 fat sheep, 6000 caldrons strong and polished, continued to be levied every second year until abolished by King Finachtach about A.D. 680. It was, however, revived by Brian Boro, King of Munster; hence his name Boroinhe.

O'Flaherty's Ogygia informs us that Naas was destroyed and the inhabitants massacred by Tuathal in 134 A.D. (The Ordnance Survey MSS. give A.D. 82.) O'Flaherty calls Tuathal's daughters Fidera and Darfinia, and states that Moyluaghat or Rathimil, otherwise Garbhthonach, was the Palace of the King of Leinster at that time, that during the war the Ultonians lost Fergus Feabhael, and burnt the Palaces of Naas, Allen, Maistean, and Rairenda. The Leabhar Gabhala says the King of Ireland resided at Rathimil or Garbhthonach, and that the Royal forces burnt Naas, Aillenn, Measten, and Bairin, the *Murs* of Bore Briasail, a house of fresh green timber which Breasel Brathairecheaun had erected some time before.

About 277 A.D.—The Dun or Fort of Naas (on North Moat), built by Luighdech Eithlenn, and hence called Lys Luighdech, was burnt by Cormac Mac (or son of) Art, a powerful King of Ireland, whose laws remained in force throughout the middle ages, to avenge the massacre by Dunlang, King of Leinster, of thirty royal maidens with a large number of their attendants.

During the 44 years of St. Patrick's ministry (425 to 469 A.D.) he paid several visits to Naas. The site of his pupal or tent is in the green of the fort, now St. David's Churchyard; his well, where he in 448 baptized Dubhlang's two sons, Oillill and Illann, and Oillill's two daughters, Moaghain and Fiedelm, is in the elder grove at Oldtown. He also baptized at Sunday's Well, near Millbrook, east of Corban's Mill, and half way between Fryary Road and the Railway. The Ordnance MSS. state that a "Patron" was held at stated periods at Sunday's Well in old times.

About 664 A.D.—St. Fechin visited Naas, obtained the release of certain captives, in memory of which the Market Cross was erected in Naas.

705 A.D. (Four Masters)—King Congal, or Conalb, Ceann Maghair, son of Fergus of Fanat, while making a hosting

\* The cow in ancient Ireland was practically the unit of value. "Bo" is Irish for cow, hence "Boromeau."

against the Leinstermen, devastated Naas and carried away hostages, probably for the payment of the Boromean tribute; he composed a poetic farewell to the Liffey, in which he praises the unbroken level grass-producing surface of its plain, as far as the Dun of Naas.

861 A.D.—Muireghan, son of Diarmead, Lord of Naas and Airther Lifé, was slain by Norsemen.

Up to this time Naas was the chief residence of the Kings of Leinster. After Cearbhall's death, 904 A.D., it was occupied by local chiefs. It is recorded that Cearbhall had never exacted rent from the Churches of Naas.

In 1169, Maurice Regan, servant and interpreter to Dermond, King of Leinster, states: "Donnel Kevanigh, Dermond's leader of the vanguard, entered into Offelan, preyed the countrie, and loaden with spoile returned home." The Black Book of the Exchequer states that Offaly, held by Maurice Fitzgerald, though now in King's County, was originally in County Kildare, and Naas-Offelan is frequently mentioned.\*

King Dermond McMurragh, of Leinster, having in 1156 carried off the wife of Rory or O'Rourke, King of Breifne, was driven from his Kingdom, and sought succour in Wales from Richard, Earl of Strigul, who, with a contingent of 300 Welchmen, assisted by Robert Fitzstephen (half brother of the Bishop of St. David's, and of Maurice Fitzgerald), and Myler FitzDavid, son of the Bishop, crossed to Ireland in 1170. Hence the selection of St. David as patron saint of Maurice Fitzgerald's grant in Naas.

1175.—Strongbow gave Carbrie to Meyler FitzHenry (son of Henry I. and the beautiful Nesta), and Naas Ofelin, formerly the estate of MacEithlenn or McKellan or Makelanes, to Maurice Fitzgerald, holding by Knight's service. The McKellans' resided at the Moat of Ardscurr.

Extract from an old French poem:—

Le Nas donat le bon contur,  
Al Fitzgeroud od tut le onur,  
Ci est la terre de Ofelan,  
Ki fut al traiteur Mac-Kelan.

1177.—The grant to Maurice Fitzgerald's son, William Fitz-Maurice, who had married Strongbow's fourth granddaughter, was confirmed by Henry II., in the Cantred (Barony) of land

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\* Cf. the paper on the Co. Kildare in this number of the JOURNAL, pp. 166 and 159, where it will be seen that Naas was in Offellan: but that since the reign of Philip and Mary only half Offaly has been in the Co. Kildare.—Ed.

which McKellan (formerly King of Naas Ofelin) held, and in which the town of Naas now stands. It was also confirmed by Prince John.

June 24, 1206.—King John passed through Naas (see State papers). “At Naas to the Earl of Salisbury 10 marks pd. to Robin de Camera, when the King (John) lay in a tent.”

June 26.—To Robert de Burgage, for play, 5s. on account of a debt due by him (the King).

June 27, 1210.—Bagwell says that King John passed through Naas. About this time Kildare became a separate county.

1316.—Edward Bruce and his Scots burned Naas and plundered the Churches, and opened the tombs in search of treasure.

1373.—Inquisition held on complaint that William de Wyndesore, the Lord Lieutenant, had, at Tameline (Timolin), imposed a talliage on the Commons of Meath of a crannock (16 bushels or 2 quarters) of wheat on each of 520 carrucates of land, and carried it to Naas, where it was valued at 2s. 8d. less than its value in Meath, and appropriated to the Lord Lieutenant's own use. John Hoke, who received the wheat at Naas, measured it by excessive measure, thereby defrauding Meath of one bushel per crannock.

1409.—A deed was registered appointing a charter to Naas.

1414.—It appears that Naas had a charter and was a Corporation, for in the Patent Roll 2, Henry V., the Portreeve, Burgesses and a commonalty of the town are granted tolls for twenty years of all things coming into the town for sale, for the purpose of walling and fortifying the town.

1419.—A Parliament was held at Naas by R. Talbot, Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Deputy of Ireland. This Parliament granted a subsidy of 300 mares.

The condition of the county in 1435 is described in the missive of that date from the Parliament of Ireland to Henry VI., which states that “within the Counties of Dyvelin, Mith, Loueth, and Kyldare, there are scarisly 30 miles in lengthe and 20 miles in breede ther as a man may surely ride other go to answerre to the Kinges writtes and his commandements.”

1454.—The petition which the chief residents in the County Kildare, and amongst others the Portreeves and Commons of Naas, addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, relates:—

“That this lande of Irland was nevir at the poynt fynally

to be destrued sethen the conquest of this lande as it is now, for the trew liege people in this partiss dar ne may not appier to the Kynges Courtes in the said lande, ne noon other of the trew liege people ther to go ne ride to market townes ne other places for dred to be slayne to take other spouled of thar godes also the mysrule and mysgovernaunce had done and daily continued by divers persons."

It describes how certain parties "came into the said counte of Kyldare and ther brant and destrued dyvers and many townes and paroches chirches of the trew liege people and toke dyvers of them prisoners and spouled them of their godes and did so gret oppressionne in the county of Kyldare and in the counte and liberty of Mith that vijxx (27) townes and more which was well inhabite in the feste of Seynte Michel lass passed been now wasted and destrued," etc. (See Comerford.)

1457.—Parliament at Naas held by Thomas FitzMaurice, Earl of Kildare, Deputy.

1465.—An Act was passed directing—

"Every Irishman that dwells betwixt Englishmen in Dublin, Myeth, Ureill, and Kildare shall go like to one English man in apparel and shewing of the Beard above the mouth—and shall take to him an English surname of one town as Sutton, Chester, Trym, Skryne, Cork, Kinsale, or colour as white, black, Brown, or arte or science as Smith or Carpenter, or office as Cooke, Butler, and that he and his issue shall use this name, under pain of forfeiting of his goods yearley," etc.

"Every Englishman and Irishman that dwells with Englishmen, between sixty and sixteen in age shall have an English bow of his own length and one fist mele—between the necks with 12 hafts of the length of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the standard, under pain," etc.

"Every such man to muster at the Butts and shoot up and down 3 times every feast day between 1st March and last day of July, under pain," etc.

"*Regrators*.—None to buy corn in the market, having sufficient store of his own, nor buy to sell again in same market on pain of being adjudged a regrator."

In 1466 marauding parties from Offaly were in the habit of going northwards as far as Tara, and southwards as far as Naas.

1471.—Thomas, Earl of Kildare, Deputy to George, Duke of Clarence, Lord Lieutenant, held Parliament at Naas on Friday, after the feast of St. Andrew.

1472.—Parliament at the Naas.

1473.—Parliament held at Naas, by Thomas FitzMaurice, Earl of Kildare, authorizes friends of persons imprisoned in



England to seize Englishmen in Ireland and retain them as hostages.

1477.—Gerald, Earl of Kildare, Lord Justiciary of Ireland, held Parliament at Naas.

1515.—The boundaries of the Pale were the towns of Dundalk, Darver, Ardee, Sydan, Kells, Dangan, Kilcock, Clane, Naas, Kilcullen, Ballymote, Rathmore, Rathcoole, Tallaght, and Dalkey.

1554.—Lord Deputy Skeffington retook Naas, which had been seized by Lord Thomas FitzGerald, then in open rebellion.

July 18, 1568.—A charter was granted to Naas by Queen Elizabeth.

July 7, 1560.—Sovereigns of Naas, Kildare, and Athy, were granted a commission to take a muster and array, and call before them all the subjects of each barony, and assess them in warlike furniture of weapons, arms, horses, horsemen and footmen, according to the manner and quality of their lands.

June 17, 1572.—A like commission granted to the Sovereign of Naas.

July 16, 1574.—Like commission with following directions. The Commissioners to assemble and divide into companies of two or three to each barony, call for lists of persons from fifteen to sixty years, to be handed in by Barony Constables, and they command the people to appear at same time with all the horse, armour, bows, arrows, guns, and other warlike apparel as they can put in readiness for the service of her Majesty. Penalty for non-appearance, 20s. On the day of appearing they make lists of all appearing, distinguishing archers, arquebusiers, billmen, horsemen, and Kerns, also those who have a horse, jack, spear, bow, sheaf of arrows, bill, gun, sword, or habergeon of mail: all to be ready to muster at six days' warning. Unarmed persons to procure arms under penalty.

1575.—Owing to great heat and long drought from Bealltaine (1st May) to Lammas (1st August) a dreadful plague swept away large numbers of the inhabitants of Naas ("Four Masters.")

1577.—Sydney states that "Rori Oge O'More and Cormacke MackCormacke O'Connor accompanied with not more than 140 men and boys, on the third of the monethe burned between vii. and viii. hundred thatched housies in a markt town called the Naas. They had not one horseman nor one shot with them.

They ranne through the towne being open like hagg and furies of hell with flakes of fier fastened on pooles ends and so fiered the lowe thatched housies ; and being a great windie night one howse took fiere of another in a moment, they tarried not  $\frac{1}{2}$  an houre in the towne, neither stode they upon killinge or spoylinge of any. There was above fyve hundred mennes bodies in the towne, manlyke enough in appearance but neither manful nor wakeful as it seamed, for they confesse they were all aslepe in their bedde after they had filled themselves and surfeyted on *their patrone day* (St. David's Day, 1st March), which day is celebrated for the most part of the people of this country birthe with gluttonye and idollatrie as farre as they dare."

Up to the close of the 18th century it was an annual custom in Naas to wear the green leek in honour of St. David. This once nearly led to a rupture with a Welsh regiment marching through the town, who, thinking their national custom was being ridiculed by the men of Naas, were proceeding to violence when the fact of their having a common patron Saint, being explained to them, turned the current of their wrath into a flow of fellowship and alcohol.

August 3, 1580.—Naas garrisoned by 500 men, under Lord Gormanstown.

August 18, 1580.—Lord Deputy Grey proceeds to the Naas.

June 14, 1595.—Robert Ashe, Sovereign of Naas, appeared and took his corporal oath that the charter of the town had been accidentally burnt and received an *inspeximus*. (Patent Rolls.)

1599.—Robert, Earl of Essex, having arrived in Ireland on 1st May, without much wealth, arms, etc., sent a detachment to garrison Naas, before proceeding westwards with his 7000 picked men on his unsuccessful expedition.

August 12, 1600.—The Lord Deputy passed through Naas on his way to Queen's County, and returned on 25th August to Naas, now garrisoned with 700 men.

January 27, 1601.—Lord Deputy Mountjoy writes urgently for reinforcements for Naas to Carew.

June 28, 1608.—The Coroners were James Fitzgerald, of Osberston, and Edward Fitzgerald, of Blackhall. Jurors for the Lord King for Barony of Naas: Oliver Eustace, of Mullagh-cash; Patrick Saunders, of Newtown-o-more; John Harquin, of Littlerath; Michael Brown, of Newtown-o-more; Thomas Sherlock, Robert Kenna, William Latten, Thomas Kelly, and Walter Archibald, all of Naas.

April 16, 1609.—The Sov., Port. and Burg. of Naas pray that the villages of Osberston and Gigginstown be contained within the liberties; also that their successors “might have the presentation to the Vicarage of St. Davides there to the end they might make choice of a schoolmaster” (as Vicar, I presume) “for instructyng the youth of the town.”

The above prayers the Privy Council “doe not thinke them fitt to be granted.”

But James I. granted a charter, which commences by reciting Queen Elizabeth’s charter of 18th July, 1568, incorporating Naas by the name of Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses and Commons.

The Burgesses and Commons every Michaelmas to elect out of themselves a Sovereign and two Portreeves to serve for an entire year, and they to be sworn the same day. The town of Naas to be a free and undoubted borough.

Power granted to the Sovereign to appoint a Sergeant-at-Mace to carry the Mace before him in the limits of the Corporation.

Power to fortify the town with foss, and walls of lime and stone.

Sovereign and Portreeves to have the return and execution of all writs (except at the King’s suit) touching the Borough, and no Sheriff, etc., to act in the Borough unless on default of ye Sovereign and Portreeves.\*

Sovereigns, Portreeves, Burgesses and Commons, to hold a Court of Pleas in all causes personal arising within the Borough or the Franchises thereof, to be held before Sovereign and Portreeves, who are to issue process and execution as in Drogheda. Ditto, in nature of an assize of fresh force, and the forfeitures and other profits of the Court of Pleas, which Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons are empowered to receive, also the goods of Infangethefe shall be expended in building and repairing the walls and fortifications and paving the town. The Sovereign to be a Justice of Peace within the borough, and have a market every Monday in such place as shall be appointed. Sovereign and Portreeves to be Exheators and Clerks of ye market, and to correct weights and measures, also to be Coroners. They may by themselves or deputies collect the following customs for everything sold within the town or franchise, viz. A horse, 2*d.*; cow, 2*d.*; goat, 1*d.*; hog,  $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; sheep,  $\frac{1}{4}$ *d.*; sack of corn,  $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*; hide or skin to the value

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\* In 1696 the Sheriff was defeated in an action brought by the Sovereign for hav ing served writs within the Corporation without the Sovereign’s consent.

of an ox-hide,  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  ; body of a cart or plough,  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  ; pair of wheels,  $1d.$  ; two shillings worth of merchandize,  $\frac{1}{2}d.$  ; five shillings worth,  $1d.$ , and all other customs and profits as in Dundalk ; the said Sovereign and Portreeves yielding and paying yearly for the said customs to the Queen so much yearly rent as the former who now hath the same doth pay. No person coming to the town to buy on a market day any merchandize or victual except victuals for his present sustenance, but between 8 o'clock a.m. and 3 p.m., except the buying from any Freeman of the town, on pain of forfeiting the thing bought for the repairs of the borough.

No stranger to sell by retail any wares brought from beyond the seas without license of Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons.

Crown rent (reserved), £10 per annum, to be paid into the Exchequer half-yearly, at Easter and Michaelmas. No inhabitant of the Borough to implead or be impleaded in any personal action arising within the Borough, anywhere but in the Borough Court before Sovereign and Portreeves.

Bye-laws may be made and repealed, provided they be not inconsistent with the general laws of the Kingdom. All waifs and strays are allocated to the use of repairs. No man to exercise any trade that is not made free by Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons.

After the above recital King James I. confirms the said charter of Queen Elizabeth, and grants as follows:—

Oath to be taken by Sovereign and Portreeves on their election at the Tholsell on Michaelmas day. You shall swear faithfully and truly to serve the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, and the people of this Corporation during your being Sovereign or Portreeve of this Borough, and you shall not do or consent to the doing of anything that may turn to the damage or disinherison of our Sovereign Lord and King, his heirs and lawful successors, you shall not conceal any treason or unlawful conspiracies against the King's Majesty, his heirs and successors, but shall endeavour to the utmost of your power to repress the offenders and his or their practices and the same treasons or conspiracies, and the offenders shall reveal to the King's Majesty or to his Majesty's Privy Council within this realm with all convenient speed you can. You shall do equal right to poor and rich without regard to persons or rewards during all the time you shall exercise the office of Sovereign or Portreeve, and defend and keep this Corporation and Borough to and for the King's Majesty, his heirs and lawful successors against all foreign enemies and homebred rebels. So help you God.

The Sovereign to be Saymaster for allowing and sealing of leather, and to punish all offences relating to the same, and to take all fines and profits and americiaments arising from the same to his own use, and no other Saymaster to act in town or liberties, and the Sovereign shall forfeit to the King for every defect in the execution of this office 20s., Irish money.

Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons, shall not be returned upon any Jury, Assize or Inquisition whatsoever upon any freehold or any matter of trespass or contract without ye said borough, unless in writs or attaint, or writs of right, or in causes touching the King, or in such cases where by the laws and customs of Ireland the affair must be enquired into by good and lawful men of the Borough, and also that no foreigners shall be put upon any Jury, Assize or Inquisition, upon any cause arising within the Borough except in writs of attaint, etc., as above.

All Deodands\* within the Borough are granted to the Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons, to their own proper use and benefit. (Deodands were abolished by law in 1846.)

Fairs to be held on Ascension Day and two days following, on St. Martin's Day and two days following. But if it happens on a Sunday, then to begin the day following, together with a pied-poudre court,† and all tolls, perquisites, etc., belonging to ye fairs, provided, however, that ye said fairs be no prejudice to ye neighbouring fairs.

The Corporation having surrendered up their lands into the hands of the Crown, they are hereby regranted and confirmed to the Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons.

Rent reserved, £4 per annum to the Crown, and £9 per annum to ye repairs of St. David's Church at Naas.

1628.—Charles I. granted another charter; I can find no trace of it, and it is not mentioned in the charter of Charles II.

Austin Cooper, in 1782, states that the charter of Naas is said to be held by killing a wren on every St. Stephen's day, but this I take to be a fairy tale.

Among the Fiants of Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth, I have met with many pardons to Naas men in connection with the rebellions and disturbances of those reigns.

\* That is, any chattel, animal, or thing forfeited for having caused the death of a man; for instance, a horse that by a kick had killed a man would be forfeited as a Deodand.

† A court of Py-powder, a rough and ready court held at fairs or wakes, &c., to compel fulfilment of contracts.

Rebellion of 1641.—Few historical events require more careful study than the rebellion of 1641, and the following years. The contending parties were so numerous, their grievances and aims so different, the general state of politics so complicated, that it is hard to conceive by what other means than the sword the inextricable knot could have been opened. “There are,” says Carlyle, “Catholics of the Pale demanding freedom of religion under my Lord this and my Lord that. There are old Irish Catholics under Popes’ Nuncios, under Abba O’Teague of the Excommunications; and Owen Roe O’Neill demanding, not religious freedom only, but what we now call Repeal of the Union, and unable to agree with Catholics of the English Pale. Then there were Ormonde Royalists of the Episcopalian and mixed creeds, strong for King without covenant, Ulster and other Presbyterians strong for King and covenant, lastly Michael Jones and the commonwealth of England, who want neither King nor covenant.”

It will be seen from the following notes that Naas and its neighbourhood suffered considerably during this rebellion; and it must be borne in mind that from first to last the opposing forces were only kept alive by the plunder of the country through which they passed. Even the Government forces when in and near Naas were as a rule, though within one day’s march of their base, Dublin, reduced to the most lamentable extremities and compelled to plunder the surrounding country or starve. One of the principal contrivers of the rebellion was Roger, *alias* Rory More, of Ballynagh, in the County Kildare, a man of old Irish family, whose property had been forfeited to the Crown and planted with Englishmen. He succeeded in drawing in most of the chief conspirators, and lost his life during the rebellion.

For years Ireland was the scene of sanguinary massacres and cruel retaliation. Sir William Petty estimates the “number of British massacred during the first year of the troubles at *not more* than 37,000.” A great scarcity of arms prevailed among the English settlers, and in 1641 the three companies raised in the County Kildare, and under the command of the Earl of Kildare, were allotted 300 stand of arms. The greater portion of these 300 men deserted to the rebels with their arms, on receipt of the news of Sir Patrick Wemyss’ defeat near Drogheda, on 29th November, 1641; and owing to the non-arrival of the expected reinforcements from England, and the inaction of the Dublin authorities numbers of small parties of marauders infested Meath and Kildare in search of plunder.

The Borough of Newcastle, the adjoining Castle and Village

of Lyons, and the town of Naas, were known to serve as receptacles for the rebels, the last especially being the principal place for meeting and holding councils of war, composed of the prime gentlemen of the County Kildare, for applotting their levies of men money and victuals upon the country for the maintenance of the rebel forces, and for issuing of their orders.

The Earl of Ormonde, Lieutenant-General, with 2000 foot, 300 horse, and 5 small field pieces, quartered on 31st January, 1642, at Newcastle, and having, pursuant to orders, burnt that town and Lyons, marched on the 1st February to the Naas, where the rebels had held a council of war the day before. Finding Naas abandoned by the rebels, he occupied it for two days, during which he sent out parties and burnt Castle Martin, Kilcullen Bridge, and several other villages within a radius of a few miles.\* The inhabitants of the Naas having assisted the rebels, and pillaged and expelled their Protestant neighbours, Ormonde punished them in their goods (they themselves having fled with the rebels), by allowing his soldiers, who were in great straits for clothing and shoes, to plunder the town, but finding it capable of being fortified, and at a convenient distance from Dublin for keeping a garrison there, he determined not to obey the order to burn it. He returned to Dublin on the 3rd February, leaving a garrison in Naas, and taking with him a Franciscan priest, Father Higgins, whom he had found in Naas, and taken under his protection, being assured of his innocence of rebellion and the great services he had rendered in saving the lives of Englishmen in Naas. This unfortunate man, however, falling into the clutches of the Governor of Dublin, Sir Charles Coote, 'a cruel and bloody man,' was hanged without trial; and Ormonde's angry expostulations, owing to the bitter feeling existing among the English in consequence of the massacres of their co-religionists, failed even to get Coote reprimanded or displaced. It was on this occasion that Ormonde received a message from Lord Gormanstown complaining of his having hanged certain persons during his expedition to Naas, and having burnt the country, and threatening to avenge himself on Ormonde's wife and children then in his power. Ormonde proved that no persons had been hanged by his orders, that in burning the country he was acting under superior orders; and informed Gormanstown that if his wife and children should receive injury from men, he would not revenge it upon women and children, which act

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\* Twenty-five miles in length and seventeen miles in breadth were devastated, it is said.

would be infinitely below the value he set upon his wife and children.

About this time (February, 1642) bills of high treason were found against 300 persons of quality and estate in County Kildare, many of whom had not joined the rebels at all, but there was no time to inquire into such details.

On 25th February, 1642, the Naas garrison, amongst others, were in great straits for provisions, the town having been plundered and the neighbourhood burnt.

In March, 1642, the Earl of Castlehaven, of Maddinstown, (one mile south-west of French Furze), in County Kildare, having been, like many others, driven into rebellion by the treatment of the Lords Justices, became General of the Leinster Horse, Preston being Commander-in-Chief.

On April 2nd, 1642, Ormonde, commanding an expedition sent to burn and destroy the houses and goods of the rebels who had deserted the County Kildare, lay at Rathcoole with 3000 foot, 500 horse, and five small field pieces. On the 3rd of April he advanced on Naas, which he had saved from burning in February, and secured it with a garrison under Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson. He now placed a new Sovereign, eight Burgesses, and fifty families of despoiled Protestants in the town.\*

January 17, 1643.—Naas garrison, under command of Sir Arthur Loftus, the governor, was in great distress, and it was a question whether it should be abandoned or no; but it was determined to send a month's provisions to Naas from Dublin, notwithstanding the great distress in that city.

The Governor offered to supply it with two months' provisions and to maintain it without relief from the State, if they would send him one troop of horse to scour the country about and fetch in provisions. This offer was refused, because the troops were employed on the officers *Custodiams* and so could not be spared.

These *custodiams* were small garrisons over estates deserted by their owners, who had gone into rebellion, or who had been accused of rebellion by the Lords Justices: the nominal reason of their existence was to preserve the crops for the benefit of the public, but the real reason was to provide comfortable employment for the servants and creatures of the Lords Justices.

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\* I imagine this means that he secured the neighbouring Protestant families in the town, for he can scarcely have brought strange families with him.



The Lords Justices, seeing that they must arrange a cessation of hostilities, notified the Irish Commissioners to meet Ormonde on the 17th August, 1643, at Sigginstown, near Naas, for that purpose. The Irish agents having modified their former demands, the cessation was signed on 15th September, 1643.

Sir Philip Percival, of Castlewarning (Castle Warden), in the County Kildare, in his vindication of the cessation of 1643, mentions that, at that time, the garrison of the Naas, one of the chief garrisons of Leinster, where 1000 men had been usually kept, was so ruined and the soldiers become so naked and miserable that, as Sir Fulk Huncks, the governor, related, many of them were starved, and the rest in such distress as raised the pity of everyone that saw them.

21st January, 1644.—Ormonde was sworn Lord Lieutenant.

29th August, 1646.—Ormonde, on his way to Kilkenny, on the invitation of the Irish, passed by Naas with 1500 foot and 500 horse, borrowed eight barrels of powder of Sir John Sherlock, the governor of Naas.\* This was fortunate for him, as, on his discovering that the invitation was a trap laid for him by the Irish, he, on his return through County Kildare, issued to his men the powder supplied by the rebels as part payment of a sum agreed upon as the price of a cessation in 1643; this powder was discovered to be quite useless, and he had to rely entirely on the eight barrels borrowed from Naas. Ormonde quartered his troops at Ballymore-Eustace on 11th September, and Sir Frederick Willoughby's detachment on the same day crossed the Liffey near Kilcullen, the bridge having been destroyed. There being only two thatched houses in Kilcullen, and no supplies, he quartered that night at Naas. The whole army returned on 13th to Dublin.

In November, 1646, Ormonde being threatened in Dublin by Preston's army, made an expedition into Kildare and burnt all mills, bridges, corn, and supplies, within some miles of the town to incommode the enemy.

In March, 1647, Ormonde, unable any longer to make even a pretence of holding Ireland for King Charles, surrendered Dublin to the Parliament.

August, 1647.—Preston, with the Leinster army of 7000 foot and 1000 horse, advanced into the English quarters, took the Naas with some small places thereabouts, on his way to Trim. After his defeat at Dangan Hill by the Parliamentary

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\* Of Little Rath, an officer of Charles I. He died in 1652. His half-brothers were on the side of the Irish Confederates.—Ed.

forces under Jones, he deserted and burnt the Naas, and the other places lately taken by him, and retired to Catherlow.

29th September, 1648.—Ormonde having returned to Ireland as the King's Lord Lieutenant, landing at Cork, raised 6000 foot and 2000 horse near Carlow, and on June 11, 1649, took Talbot's town and Castle Talbot, in County Kildare. Jones marched out of Dublin with the Parliamentary army as far as Johnstown, but Ormonde, owing to want of supplies, was unable to advance against him until June 14th, when, having received a reinforcement of 2000 men and £3000, he moved towards Dublin, taking the Castle of *Allon* and the Naas on the way. There he held a council of war, and, leaving thirty horse and thirty foot to block Ballysonan, marched towards Dublin on 19th June, Jones having retired thither.

After the execution of Charles I., Ormonde at once proclaimed Prince Charles king. Cromwell, however, took command of the Parliamentary army in Ireland, landing on August 15th, 1649. His power, ability, straightforwardness, and cruel severity effectually drove his opponents into submission.

In March, 1650, his subordinate, Hewson, marching from Dublin, took Naas, and occupied Ballysonan and other castles. The king's case being hopeless, Ormonde left Ireland on 7th December, 1650, leaving Clanricarde as his deputy. He was, however, after the restoration of Charles II., reappointed Lord Lieutenant in 1661.

1671.—King Charles II. grants a new charter. It takes notice that the charters of Queen Elizabeth and James I. were become doubtful by the wars and disturbance of the kingdom, and incorporates Naas anew by name of Sovereign, Portreeves, Burgesses, and Commons, and to have all liberties belonging to any free borough. All lands at that time held to be within the liberties to be always accounted so.

1683-7.—Grants were made of lands and houses in Naas and the neighbourhood which had belonged to the Eustaces then attainted.

In 1687 the Sheriff summoned the Corporation to the Court of Exchequer to explain by what right they have been acting as a Corporation for twelve months past. The Corporation appear and suffer judgment. This was evidently done to compel the Corporation to take out their new charter.

In 1689 the new charter of 1671 was taken out. For eighteen years previous this appears to have been in contemplation, and in 1689 "Edmund Sherlock was appointed Town

Clerk, at £12 per annum, by reason of he having brought out the new charter and other good reasons.”

In 1696 the Naas May-pole being out of repair was to be repaired substantially and as cheaply as possible. In 1701, “Ye May-pole to be forthwith pulled down and made a lader off for ye use of ye towne.”

The Grand Canal was commenced 1756, under the auspices of Parliament and the Navigation Board; it progressed so slowly that a number of private individuals, called the Company of Undertakers, subscribed £100,000, and receiving a grant of one-sixth of their expenditure from the Government, were incorporated in 1772, and completed the canal to Monasterevan in 1786. The summit level is 202ft. 4in. above James's-street Harbour, and 265ft. above tide of Liffey in Dublin. Richard Evans was the engineer; Brownrigg the surveyor. In 1789 Guthrie, writing about the commodious packet boats, declares them “one of the most reasonable, expeditious, and social modes of conveyance yet known in any part of Europe.” In a *Dublin Evening Post* of 1825, in my possession, the passage boats were advertised to leave Richmond Harbour and Dublin daily, and Dublin and Mullingar three times per week.

1789.—Branch canal from Sallins to Corbally completed at a cost of £12,300.

1798.—On 24th May one of the first overt acts of insurrection took place at Naas, when Michael Reynolds, a farmer, and a party of about 1000 (?) United Irishmen attacked Naas, and were repulsed with a supposed loss of 150 men by Lord Gosford, commanding a force composed of the Armagh militia and local yeomanry.

*Note.*—On that occasion Ennis' holding in John's-lane, Lattin's alms houses in Horse Fair, the Red Cross Inn, next to and north of where Rankin's public-house now stands, Long's holding at corner of New Road, Brewer's two houses (I think on Dublin Road), six cabins on the green were either taken down by the military for range of cannon or demolished during the fighting. The guns were placed on two mounds, probably St. David's Castle and the Fair Green where the old Barrack stood.

Commissioners were afterwards appointed to investigate claims for damage caused by rebellion, rebuilding houses, etc.

1813.—New Barracks built at Naas.

1833.—County Gaol completed; cost, £14,000.

## II. — REPRESENTATION OF NAAS IN THE PARLIAMENT OF IRELAND.

Naas has probably been styled a borough since the invasion of Henry II. In ancient times the word merely meant a walled town; later it seems to have only applied to such towns as had some organization for the transaction of public local business, and at a still later date the name was understood to infer a right to representation in Parliament.

The following persons sat in the Irish Parliaments for the Borough of Naas from 1559 to the Union :—

DATE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
1559, January,	.. Henry Draicotte, Esq.,	Marmerton, Meath.
		John Sherlocke, Esq.
1585, 13th April,	.. James Sherlocke, Naas.*	
		Walter Lewes, Naas.
1613,	.. William Lattin.	
		Christopher Sherlock, gent.
1634, 12th January,	.. Do.	
		William Archbold, Tymolin.
1639, March,	.. Charles Sherlock, Esq.	
		Nicholas Lattin, Esq.
1642,	.. Sutton (expelled for the rebellion).	
1642, 16th November,	.. Dudley Loftus, Esq., vice Sherlock, expelled	for non-attendance.
1661, 17th April,	.. Sir John Hoey, Knight, Cotlandstowne.	
		George Carr, Esq., Knight.
1662, 24th March,	.. William Wentworth, Esq., Dublin, vice Carr,	deceased.
1665, 6th November,	.. William Hoey, Esq., Cotlandstowne, vice Hoey,	deceased.
1665, 8th December,	.. Thomas Rateliffe, Esq., Dublin, vice Went-	worth, absent in England with-
		out licence.
1692, 19th September,	.. John Aylmer, Esq., Ballykenan.	
		Nicholas Jones, Esq.
1695, 12th August,	.. Richard Neville, Esq., Recorder.	
		James Barry, Esq., Dublin.
1703 to 1713,	.. James Barry, Esq., unseated on petition.	
		Richard Neville, Esq., unseated on petition.
<i>And by second return :—</i>		
		Alexander Graydon, Esq., of Killishee, Naas.
		Francis Spring, Esq.
		James Barry, Esq., in place of F. Spring,
		deceased.
1713 to 1727,	.. Thomas Burgh, Esq., of Oldtown.	
		Theobald Burke, Esq.

\* James Sherlock died in 1595. His name appears in the protest of the Knights and Burgesses in Parliament, who refused to consent to the attainder of Desmond.

DATE.	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
1727 to 1760,	..	Thomas Burgh, Esq., of Oldtown. John Bourke, Esq.
		Thomas Burgh, Esq., of Oldtown, in place of Thomas Burgh, deceased.
		Richard Burgh, Esq., in place of T. Burgh, deceased.
1761 to 1768,	..	Maurice Keating, Esq.
		Richard Burgh, Esq.
		John Bourke, Esq., Junr., in place of R. Burgh, deceased.
1769 to 1783,	..	John Bourke, Esq.
		John Bourke, Junr., Esq.
		Thomas Allen, Esq., in place of John Bourke, Lord Naas.
1738 to 1790,	..	Honourable John Bourke.
		Hugh Carleton, Esq.
		Sir Richard Gorges Meredith, Baronet, in place of Hugh Carleton, Chief Justice of Common Pleas.
1790 to 1797,	..	Hon. John Bourke, commonly called Lord Vis- count Naas.
		John Bourke, Esq.
		John Bond, Esq., in place of John Bourke, Earl of Mayo.
		Sir James Bond, in place of John Bond.
		Right Hon. George Damer, commonly called Lord Viscount Milltown, in place of the Hon. John Bourke, Earl of Mayo.
		Hon. William Aglionby Yelverton, in place of Sir James Bond, who accepted office as Escheator of Munster.
1798 to 1800,	..	Right Hon. Thomas Pelham.
		Hon. Francis Hely Hutchinson.
		Sir John Macartney, Baronet, in place of Mr. Pelham, who made his election for Armagh Borough.

*(To be continued.)*

## Notes.

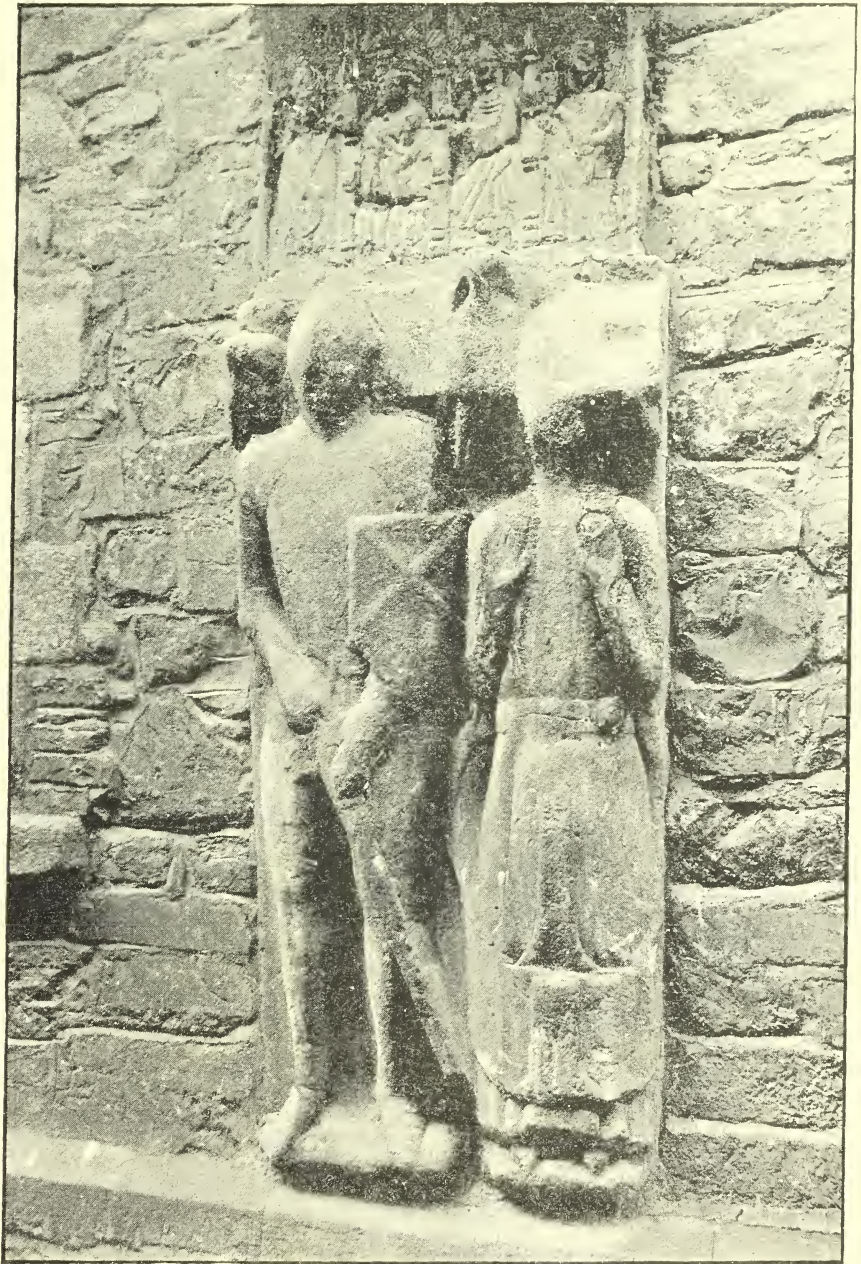
By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

A FitzGerald Altar-Tomb belonging to the Fifteenth Century at St. Werburgh's Church, Dublin.—Although this tomb is not in the county, yet it has a local interest, as belonging to an Earl of Kildare,



PORTION OF THE FITZGERALD ALTAR-TOMB  
(Side end),  
ST. WERBURGH'S CHURCH, DUBLIN.

and its existence may be unknown to many. A description of it appeared last year in the Report of the Society for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead (Ireland). It has also been described,



PORTIONS OF THE FITZGERALD ALTAR-TOMB, ST. WERBURGH'S CHURCH, DUBLIN.  
i. (Showing the covering slab, and one of the ends.)





and its history told, by the Rev. S. C. Hughes, in his work on St. Werburgh's. The illustrations of the tomb here given are taken from photographs by Geoghegan, of Sackville-street, Dublin. So far as I know, it has never before been illustrated.



PORTION OF THE FITZGERALD ALTAR-TOMB

(Side end),

ST. WERBURGH'S CHURCH, DUBLIN.

The remains of the tomb are now built in between the lower windows on the outside of the south wall of St. Werburgh's, Dublin. They consist of the covering slab, bearing the effigies of a knight in armour and his wife; and of the three sides, which are elaborately

decorated with sixteen niches, containing figures representing the saints. These portions are placed as follows:—

1. Between the first two windows is the front of the tomb, with eight niches in it;
2. Then comes the covering slab, standing upright, with one of the ends above it, containing four niches;
3. And lastly, between the next two windows is the other end, in two pieces, each containing two niches, which are acting as a support to a mural tablet.

The material of which the tomb is composed is a kind of yellow sandstone; the sculptures are much worn away by their exposure to the weather, particularly the two effigies; there is no inscription visible.

The knight represented on this tomb was either John the Crooked,\* sixth Earl of Kildare, or Thomas, the seventh Earl, both of whom were buried in the monastery of All Saints, in the fifteenth century. On the dissolution of this monastery the monument was removed; according to Mr. Gilbert, it stood first in St. Mary's Church, afterwards in Cork House, whence it was moved to St. Werburgh's.

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**Origin of the Bodkin Family, Co. Galway.**—Hardiman, in his "History of Galway," names the Bodkins as one of the thirteen Anglo-Norman tribes from whom the town of Galway became known as "the Citie of the Tribes."

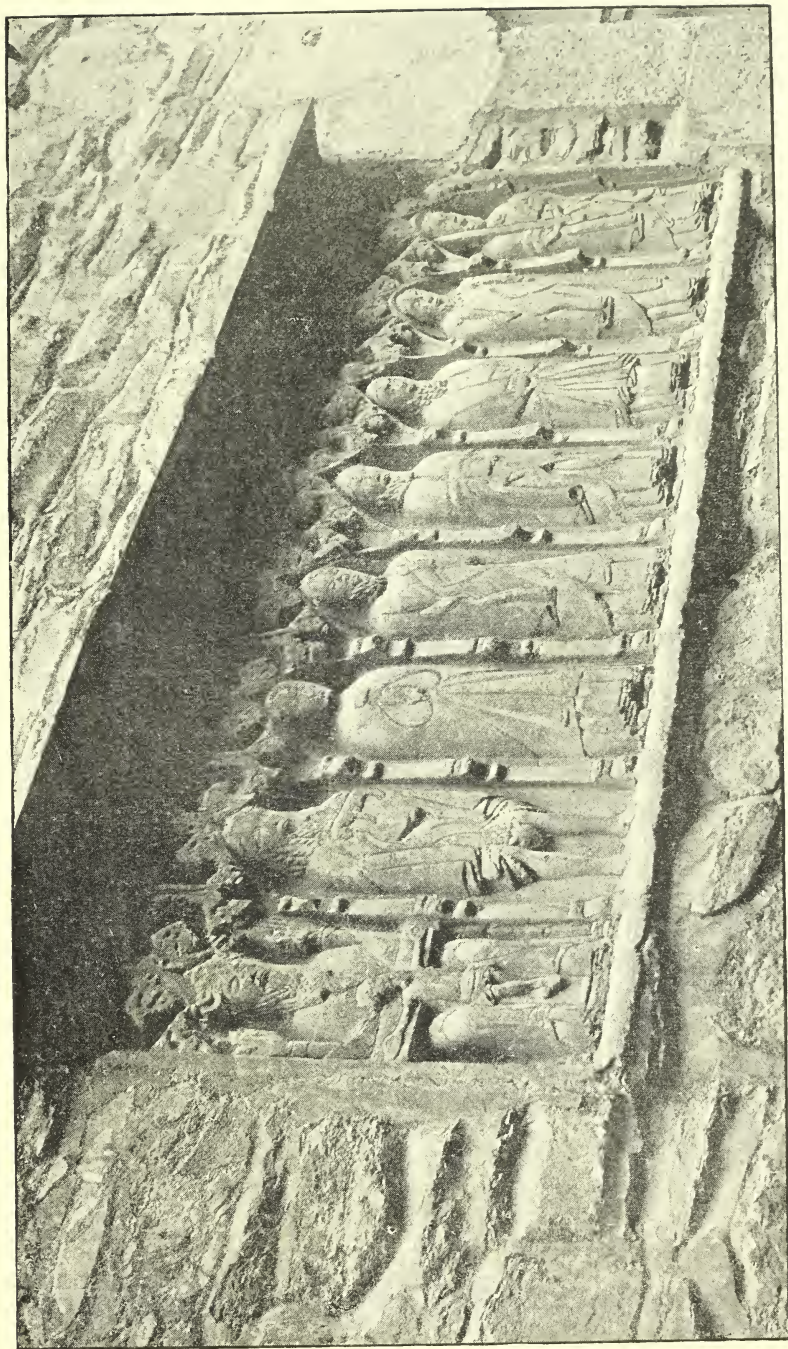
He goes on to describe how this family was descended from Maurice FitzGerald, ancestor of the Earls of Kildare. The cause in the change of the name he thus explains:—

"This family name of Bodkin originated, according to tradition, from a victory gained by their great progenitor, Thomas, son of Richard FitzGerald (about the year 1300), over a valiant Irish knight, whom he encountered in single combat, and having, in the conflict, made use of a short spear or weapon, in Irish called a 'Baudekin,' he was from that circumstance surnamed 'Buaidh Baudekin,' *i.e.* of the victory of the Bodkin, which name was afterwards retained by his descendants."

Whatever doubt may attend this tradition, none can exist as to the origin and descent of the family, which are fully ascertained by the testimony of antiquaries, by ancient stone sculptures and monuments still remaining, and from the genealogies of the Geraldines, whose arms the Bodkin family bore for many generations, and whose motto, "Crom-a-boo," they retain to this day.

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\* John, the sixth Earl, nicknamed "Shaun Cam" (John the hump-backed), died October 17, 1427. He married Margaret de la Herne, according to Lodge; but according to a pedigree in the Earl of Kildare's White Book, his wife was a Basset. Their only child, Thomas, became the seventh Earl of Kildare, who was several times made Lord Deputy, and dying on the 25th of March, 1477, was buried beside his father in the monastery of All Hallows. His wife was Lady Joan FitzGerald, daughter of the 7th Earl of Desmond; she died in 1486.



PORTION OF THE FITZGERALD ALTAR-TOMB, ST. WEBBURGH'S CHURCH, DUBLIN.

(Showing the front.)



Their arms are—Ermine, on a saltire gules, a leopard's face or. Crest—a leopard's face or. Motto—Crom-a-boo.

The FitzGerald arms are argent, a saltire gules. Crest, a monkey, statant ppr., environed about the middle with a plain collar, and chained or. Motto, Crom-a-boo.

**Sculptured Celtic High Crosses in the County.**—I would be much obliged to anyone who could add to the following list:—

MOONE.—Two, one all but perfect; the other, a portion of the head and arms only.

CASTLEDERMOT.—Two, both all but perfect.

OLD KILCULLEN.—One, 5¼ feet of the shaft.

In the possession of Dr. J. M. Neale, of Newington House, near Feighcullen, is the cap or top-stone, of granite, of a Celtic cross; it is shaped like the gable ends and roof of a house; the two gable-ends are plain, but the roof is cut into squares as imitation of slates or tiles, alternately, six in one row, and seven in the next. Its measurements are, 15 in. in height, 14 in. in length at the base, and 12 in. at the top; in depth at the base, 9½ inches. There is a socket underneath 5½ in. by 4. It is not known where this cross-cap was brought from.

**A Mural Tablet of the 17th Century, Timolin.**—This tablet consists of a piece of limestone, 18 inches square, built into the wall of a house in Timolin. On the upper portion is the Archbold coat-of-arms on a plain shield, viz. ermine, a saltire, and chief\* gules.

On one side of the shield is a W, and on the other an A. These initials stand for William Archbold, whose wife was Johanna Dongan. William's father was Walter Archbold, of Timolin, who died on the 26th of September, 1629; he was then 45 years of age, and married, and taking part in the rising of 1641, he was outlawed, and his property confiscated.

Below the shield is a portion of the first verse of the XLI<sup>st</sup> Psalm, in contracted Latin, of four lines—

BEATVS · QVI · Ī  
TELLIGIT · SV P̄ ·  
EGENVM · ET ·  
PAVPERĒ · 1630

*i.e.* "Blessed is he who considereth the needy and poor." The whole device is cut in relief.

\* The "chief" is not marked on the stone.

**The Archbold Altar-Tomb, Moone Abbey.**—Over the Archbold vault, which is situated inside the east end of the Abbey ruins, are lying portions of a fine altar-tomb, the sides of which are richly covered with foliage, forms, and animal devices; the covering slab is imperfect; at the top end is the Archbold coat-of-arms on a shield—“Ermine, a saltire, and chief\* gules.” Like the Walsh monument in Kildare Cathedral (described on pp. 144–5 of the Society’s JOURNAL), the four corners bore the emblems of the Evangelists, the two top corners containing that of St. Mark on the left, and St. Matthew on the right.

Of the inscription, the first six lines alone are left; it reads thus:

ORATE PRO ANÌMA  
GUALTERÌ ARCH-  
BOLD QVÌ HOC  
MONUMENTUM  
FIÈRÌ FECIT IN ME  
MORIÀM UXORIS

. . . . .

The remainder of the slab, bearing the wife’s name and the date, is lost, but the former can be supplied from a funeral entry in Ulster’s office, which is quoted below:—

“Walter Archbold, of Timolin, in the county of Kildare, deceased the 26th of September, 1629. He had to his first wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Eustace, of Molaugheash, in the aforesaid county; he had issue William, Joan, and Anne. His second wife was Anne, daughter of Robert Usher of Cromline, and had issue Richard and James. He was buried in Mone, in y<sup>e</sup> county of Kildare.”

On the upper portion of this slab, in rough unfinished relief, are cut the following letters, upside down:—

MATHUE MOL:  
AUNXE MASONE.

The whole of the carving is in relief, and it so resembles that on the Walsh monument mentioned above, that very probably they were both the work of Mathew Molaunxe (Molyneux?).

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\* The “chief” is not shown on the stone.

**Wayside Cross at Johnstown Village, Barony of Carbury.**—At the far end of this village, by the roadside, is a pillar of masonry, on the top of which is a square piece of limestone, with a cherub and a rope-like scroll cut in bold relief on its front; inserted in this base is a small cross; along the arms is incised the monogram **IHS** and on the shaft **A.D. 1412**.

Can anyone give any information about it?

The Rev. E. O'Leary, P.P., of Ballyna, states that some sixty years ago it was dug up in the neighbourhood, and placed where it is now by the lords of the soil, the More-O'Farrells; and that it is known as a "suppression" Cross, having belonged to a religious house, the existence of which is forgotten.

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**Stone Effigies in the County.**—I have the following additions to make to my previous list, given on page 148 of the *JOURNAL* :—

**DUNFIERTH.**—Built into the walls of the modern Hamilton vault are portions of an altar-tomb. The covering slab, bearing a knight's effigy, is placed inside; on either side of the knight's head is a coat-of-arms, one consisting of the Bermingham and FitzGerald coats impaled, and the other the Bermingham and Plunkett coats impaled; there is no inscription.

The knight represents Sir William Bermingham, first Baron Carbery, who died in 1548.

**DONADEA.**—The monument here is hardly of the same class as those before mentioned, and is of more modern date (the beginning of the 17th century; it consists of a canopied altar-tomb, on which are the kneeling figures of Sir Gerald Aylmer, Bart., who died in 1634, and of his wife, Dame Julia Nugent, who died in 1617.

This elaborately designed monument was erected in 1626.

## Queries.

Can anyone tell me the meaning of the name "*Hazelhatch*"? It has a very English ring about it.

By an Inquisition taken in Naas on the 27th July, 1630, I find that William Sutton, of Tipper, was in possession of Barberstown, Straffan, "Bathe alias Hutchenhatch," &c. William's death took place on the 1st September, 1592. Whether this "Hutchenhatch" is the same place as Hazelhatch I cannot say.

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**M'Cabe's Tree.**—On Noble and Keenan's map of the Co. Kildare (1752), about a mile to the south of Johnstown village, near Innfield Station, is a spot marked by a tree, and "M'Cabe's Tree" written beside it. It stood, as far as I can judge, by the roadside, in the townland of Dunfierth. Can anyone tell its story? — WALTER FITZGERALD.



## New Members.

The following have been elected Members of the Society :—

- Brown, Stephen J., Naas : proposed by the Earl of Mayo ; seconded by Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*.
- Burtchaell, George Dames, M.A., 7, St. Stephen's-green, Dublin : proposed by Arthur Vicars, *Ulster* ; seconded by the Duke of Leinster.
- Cane, Major Claude, St. Wolstan's, Celbridge : proposed by the Earl of Mayo ; seconded by Lord Walter FitzGerald.
- Carberry, Rev. Thomas, Crookstown, Ballytore : proposed by David Mahony ; seconded by Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*.
- Davidson-Houston, Rev. B. C., St. John's Vicarage, Sydney Parade, Dublin ; proposed by the Duke of Leinster ; seconded by Lord Walter FitzGerald.
- Follis, Rev. Charles W., Emily-square, Athy : proposed by Thomas J. Hannon ; seconded by H. Hendrick Aylmer.
- Moran, His Eminence Cardinal, *Life Member*, Sydney, N.S.W. : proposed by Bishop Comerford ; seconded by the Very Rev. E. W. Burke, V.F.
- More O'Ferrall, Ambrose, D.L., *Life Member*, Balyna, Moyvalley : proposed by the Earl of Mayo ; seconded by George Mansfield.
- Tristram, Rev. J. W., D.D., The Rectory, Maynooth : proposed by Arthur Vicars, *Ulster* ; seconded by the Duke of Leinster.
- Tynan, Rev. Canon Thomas, Newbridge : proposed by Rev. T. Morrin ; seconded by D. P. Coady.
- Welch, Robert J., 49, Lonsdale-street, Belfast : proposed by Robert Day, F.S.A. ; seconded by Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*.
- Weldon, A. A., Kilmorony, Athy : proposed by Arthur Vicars, *Ulster* ; seconded by the Earl of Mayo.
- Weldon, Lady, Kilmorony, Athy : proposed by the Duke of Leinster ; seconded by the Earl of Mayo.
- Wilson, Colonel W. F., The Vicarage, Clane : proposed by H. Hendrick Aylmer ; seconded by Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*.



# JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

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## Proceedings.

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THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, the 18th January, 1893, in the Town Hall, Naas:—

THE DUKE OF LEINSTER, *President*, in the Chair.

The following Members of the Council were present:—  
Bishop Comerford, *Vice-President*; Lord Walter FitzGerald; Canon Sherlock; Rev. Denis Murphy; Mr. George Mansfield; Mr. H. Hendrick-Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; The Earl of Mayo and Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Hon. Secretaries*.

In addition the following Members and Visitors attended:—

Countess of Mayo; Lord Connemara; Rev. W. FitzGerald; Rev. M. Devitt; Rev. J. Anderson; Very Rev. Canon Burke; The Very Rev. the Dean of Kildare; Rev. T. Morrin; Mr. T. J. de Burgh, D. L.; Mrs. H. Hendrick-Aylmer; Rev. J. Adams; Mr. J. Loch, C. I. R. I. C.; Mrs. A. Aylmer; Mr. K. L. Supple, D. I. R. I. C.; Rev. H. P. Browne; Rev. J. Connery; Mr. and Mrs. Sutcliffe; Rev. A. Kinsella; Rev. C. Ganly; Miss H. Craig; Mrs. Brooke; Rev. George Garrett; General M'Mahon; Mr. D. Mahony, D. L.; Mr. G. Gun Mahony; The Misses Bonham; Mr. E. Fenelon; Very Rev. Canon Murphy, v. o.; Mr. and Miss Wilton; Miss Sherlock; Dr. and Mrs. Falkiner; Mr. Mark Taylor; Mr. and Miss Weldon; Mr. George Wolfe; Rev. James Carroll; Mr. W. R. Molloy, M. R. I. A.; Mr. T. J. Hannon; Mr. E. Molloy.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting having been read and signed, Mr. Arthur Vicars read the Report of the Council,

which reviewed the work of the Society since its establishment in the year 1891, which was adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Hendrick-Aylmer, read his Report, and submitted his Statement of Accounts of the Society for the year ending 31st December, 1892, which was also adopted.

The following Resolutions were passed :—

Proposed by Mr. Arthur Vicars, and seconded by Mr. H. Hendrick-Aylmer—

“That Rule VII. be altered, and made to read as follows :—‘That Meetings of the Society be held not less than twice in each year, one Meeting being an Excursion to some place of archaeological interest in the district.’”

Proposed by the Earl of Mayo, seconded by Mr. George Mansfield—

“That the following be added to the Rules of the Society :—‘Rule XII. No Member shall receive the JOURNAL if his Subscription for the previous year be not paid.’”

Proposed by the Earl of Mayo, seconded by Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j.—

“That a sum of £5 be given from the Funds of the Society towards defraying the expenses attendant on the insertion of the intermediate shaft of the Celtic Cross at Moone, and that a Sub-Committee, consisting of Lord Walter FitzGerald, Mr. F. M. Carroll, and Mr. D. Mahony, be appointed to look after the details of the work and the carrying of it to completion, and that they report to the Council.”

Proposed by Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j., seconded by Canon Sherlock—

“That the Society puts itself into communication with the authorities of the National Museum, Kildare-street, and request them to take a cast of the monument at Timolin, promising to obtain for the artist every facility in their power for the execution of this work.”

It was decided that the Excursion Meeting for the year should be held at Maynooth and district early in September.

The Archdeacon of Kildare and Mr. T. Cooke Trench, being the retiring Members of the Council, were re-elected.

Mr. Vicars read for the author, Mr. A. Hartshorne, F.S.A., a Paper, entitled “Notes on a Recumbent Monumental Effigy in the Churchyard of Timolin, Co. Kildare.”

Papers were also read by Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j., on “St. Brigid,” and by Lord Walter FitzGerald, on “Mullaghmast : its History and Traditions.”

A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to these gentlemen for their Papers.

Mr. Vicars exhibited an Ordinary of Arms, about 250 years old, containing over 4000 emblazoned Coats-of-Arms; coloured facsimiles of the two earliest known English Rolls-of-Arms; a complete collection of printed matter and MS. concerning the Queen's Coronation; a facsimile of a Tournament Roll, temp. Henry VIII.; the Coronation Procession of Charles II.; an original heraldic MS. by Dugdale; and impressions of early Armorial Seals from Edward the Black Prince down to the seventeenth century.

A vote of thanks to the Duke of Leinster for presiding terminated the proceedings.

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NOTE.—The Hon. Treasurer's Account for the past year, and the Proceedings of the Meeting of 17th January, 1894, will be published in the autumn number of the JOURNAL.

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#### REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1893.

THE year 1893 has been one of continued prosperity and brightness for the Society.

Several new Members (not counting those proposed for election at this Meeting) have joined the Society, leaving the numbers on the list at 120.

Death has removed from the roll one Member. It is our sad duty to have to chronicle the death, at the close of the past year, of our President, the Duke of Leinster.

We need not here expatiate on the merits of the first President of our Society; a full obituary appears in the number of the JOURNAL just issued. Suffice it to say that, from the outset, the late Duke of Leinster took the most ardent interest in the starting of the Society, and continued to the last, as the Council can testify, to have the best interests of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society at heart.

Few of us will forget the kind and hospitable reception we received from the Duke and Duchess of Leinster at Carton on the occasion of the Excursion at Maynooth in September, which was the last occasion on which the late Duke appeared in public.

This is the only sad event we have to chronicle in the past year, and the Council feel that the Members will all join with

them in mourning the loss of one who, apart from his social merits, did so much to aid the objects of the Society.

Passing to brighter matters. The work of the year 1893 commenced with the Meeting in January, which was held in the Town Hall, Naas, at which Papers were read, and a considerable amount of general business transacted.

At this Meeting it was decided that Maynooth and the surrounding districts should be the scene of the Summer Excursion. Special thanks are due to the organizers of this Meeting, and to those who kindly helped them: notably Mr. W. Kirkpatrick, who ably assisted in the carriage arrangements at the Hazelhatch end. A full report of this Excursion Meeting will appear in the next number of the JOURNAL. The Council would, however, impress on Members the necessity of complying with the directions laid down on the programme of these Excursion Meetings, and request that Members should give timely notice of their intention of attending, as considerable difficulty was experienced at the Maynooth Meeting in providing accommodation for all, owing to so many having sent in their names at the last moment. When there is any uncertainty about such matters expense is always entailed on the Society.

In accordance with a Resolution, passed at the General Meeting in January, a second number of the JOURNAL was issued for the past year, and the Council hope that Members will assist them, so far as in their power, by contributing articles to the JOURNAL, and not leaving this to a few of the more ardent Members of the Society; for it is their desire to see as many Members as possible represented in the pages of the JOURNAL.

The first of what we may call the practical work of the Society was carried out during the past year in the restoration of the fine Celtic Cross at Moone, towards which the Society voted a sum of £5, and appointed a committee to look after the details of the work, including the lord of the soil, Mr. Carroll.

How satisfactorily this work was carried out may be judged by inspecting the cross as it now appears, with the intermediate shaft (discovered within recent years) inserted; thus restoring to its original beauty, after the lapse of may be some centuries, an ancient Celtic Cross, which must now be ranked as one of the finest specimens of its class in this country.

The Committee's Report will appear in our next issue, which will give full details of this work.

The Hon. Treasurer will present his Report, which shows the financial condition of the Society to be most satisfactory.

In accordance with a Resolution, passed at the last General

Meeting, referring the question of the appointment of an Editor of the JOURNAL to the Council, Canon Sherlock was asked to undertake the duties of Editor, and kindly consented. How admirably this somewhat thankless duty has been carried out the last two numbers of the JOURNAL will testify.

In like manner, as the question of the price of the JOURNAL to Non-Members was referred to the Council, they have fixed the price of each number at the uniform charge of 2s. 6d.

Two Members of the Council—Lord Walter FitzGerald and Mr. George Mansfield—retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The Council regret to say that many influential residents of the county have not, as yet, thought fit to join the Society. In order to bring before them the good work and objects of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society, they contemplate in the ensuing year issuing a special circular, inviting their support to the Society, as becoming all who have an interest in the history of their county and the preservation of its antiquities.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

MAYO,  
ARTHUR VICARS, *Ulster,* } *Hon. Secretaries.*

Dated this 17th day of January, 1894.

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### EXCURSION MEETING, 1893.

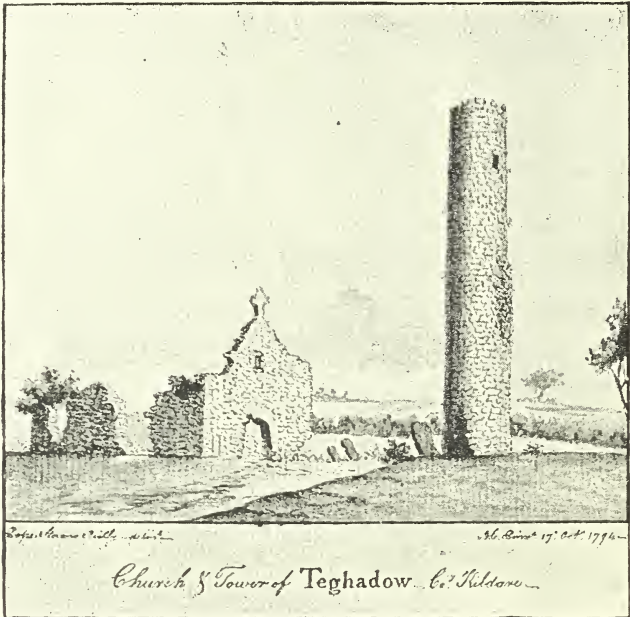
THE third Annual Excursion Meeting took place on Thursday, 14th September, at Maynooth.

Owing to the situation of this place it became necessary to break up the party into two contingents, Lord Walter FitzGerald taking charge of the one arriving at Hazlebatch Station, bringing Members from the southern part of the county, and Mr. Arthur Vicars taking charge of the other at Maynooth.

At this Meeting, even more than at Athy, considerable difficulty was experienced by those having charge of the arrangements for conveying Members and their friends to the place of meeting. As the numbers attending reached very nearly 200, the local vehicles were found to be quite inadequate to meet the

requirements, and so brakes had to be procured from Dublin to supplement them.

On the arrival of the trains at Maynooth Station this contingent moved off to Taghadoe, three miles distant, where it was shortly afterwards joined by the large party from Hazle-hatch Station. Lord Walter FitzGerald here described the chief features of interest in the Round Tower, and read a



TAGHADOE ROUND TOWER AND CHURCH, FROM THE N.W.  
(As it was a hundred years ago.)

The original sketch is in the possession of Austin Damer Cooper, Esq.,  
of Drummigh House, Co. Dublin.

Paper, the substance of which appears in his article on "The Round Towers of the County Kildare," published in the JOURNAL.

The Society then proceeded to Maynooth Castle, where they inspected this interesting old stronghold of the FitzGerald, and having assembled in the large upper chamber of the castle the Duke of Leinster read a most exhaustive account of the place and of the part it played in Irish history.



The company then walked to the adjoining College of Maynooth, where they were received by the President of the College, Monsignor Browne, and conducted over the buildings. The fine new chapel called forth universal admiration, and here everyone rested, whilst Monsignor Browne from his stall addressed the Society in most eloquent language, giving a history of the College and of its benefactors from its foundation—foremost amongst these was the Ducal House of Leinster. Some of the Members then proceeded to the Library, and examined its treasures, whilst others wandered about the extensive grounds, and later wended their way to the church of Maynooth, at the College gate, where the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Tristram, read a short Paper on the history of the edifice.

It being now near two o'clock the Members betook themselves in a long stream of vehicles to Carton. Here the Duke of Leinster had kindly invited all the Society to luncheon, and some idea can be formed of the magnitude of the invitation when it is stated that some 200 availed themselves of it. Everything was done in the most perfect manner, even to the luncheon tickets, which displayed across the surface the well-known red saltire of the FitzGerald.

Luncheon was served in the Racket Court, which afforded ample accommodation. At the conclusion of luncheon the Earl of Donoughmore proposed the health of the host and hostess in fitting terms, which was responded to by the Duke of Leinster; after which the Members proceeded to view the interior of the house, which formed no small part of the day's pleasures. The company were received in the hall by the Duke and Duchess, and wandered through the mansion, inspecting the numerous *objets d'art* and fine pictures to the strains of the organ in the saloon, which was presided at by Mr. Vipond Barry. Objects of antiquarian interest were laid out on tables in the hall, and the Duke himself conducted the party through the rooms and described the pictures. The grounds had also their attractions, including the stone table of Gerald 9th Earl of Kildare.

The day was far too short to see all one wished, and it was with reluctance the company parted to catch their various trains. The weather throughout was all that could be desired, and arrangements for the conveyance of the Members and their friends worked to the satisfaction of everyone.

**REPORT of the COMMITTEE on the RESTORATION of  
the CROSS at MOONE.**

THIS Cross was found about 1835 buried in Moone Abbey Churchyard, close to the south-eastern wall of the Old Abbey Church.

At the suggestion of the third Duke of Leinster it was erected where it now stands. It then consisted of two sections. Some time afterwards a third section was discovered, forming an intermediate part of the shaft of the cross previously erected, and it was long felt that it would be very desirable that this fine old Celtic cross should be restored as originally designed.

At the suggestion of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society this work was commenced March 20th, 1893, by Mr. Carroll, assisted by Lord Walter FitzGerald, who kindly lent chains, pulley blocks, &c., and also many of the poles required for the scaffolding.

On March 28th the first attempt was made to raise the upper section of the cross; after considerable difficulty we succeeded in doing so, and it was lowered with great care safely to the ground.

We then found it would be necessary to make the scaffolding higher, and that the framework should be strengthened, as the strain in raising the upper section of the cross had been greater than we anticipated; and some arrangements had to be made to fasten with iron dowels the sections of the cross, and that they should be firmly leaded into the old mortice holes for greater security.

On April 2nd the work was finally completed, including repairs of foundation on which the base of cross stands, round which was constructed a thick bed of concrete.

The scaffolding being removed, all were greatly pleased with the successful result of the work.

The masons engaged took a personal interest in the work, and were as anxious as ourselves that all should be well and carefully done.

Our best thanks are due to Lord Walter FitzGerald for his assistance and suggestions during the progress of the work.

The total expense of restoration was £8 7s.

F. M. CARROLL.

*4th September, 1893.*

LIST OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

(CORRECTED TO JANUARY 17, 1894.)

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President :

THE EARL OF MAYO.

Vice-President :

THE MOST REV. BISHOP COMERFORD, D. D.

Council :

THE VEN. MAURICE DE BURGH, ARCHDEACON OF KILDARE.

THE REV. CANON E. O'LEARY.

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A.

THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.

GEORGE MANSFIELD, ESQ.

THOMAS COOKE TRENCH, ESQ., D.L.

Hon. Treasurer :

HANS HENDRICK-AYLMER, ESQ., KERDIFFSTOWN, NAAS.

Hon. Secretaries :

LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A., KILKEA CASTLE, MAGENY.

ARTHUR VICARS, ESQ., F.S.A., *Ulster*, CLYDE-ROAD, DUBLIN.

Hon. Editor :

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, SHERLOCKSTOWN, NAAS.

### Members :

[Officers are indicated by heavy type ; Life Members by an (\*) asterisk.]

Adams, Rev. James, Kill Rectory, Straffan.

Archbold, Miss, Davidstown, Castledermot.

Aylmer, Miss, Donadea Castle, Co. Kildare.

Aylmer, Algernon, Rathmore, Naas.

**AYLMER, H. HENDRICK-**, Hon. Treasurer, Kerdiffstown, Naas.

\*Barton, Major, D.L., Straffan House, Straffan Station.

Bonham, Colonel, Ballintaggart, Colbinstown, Co. Kildare.

Brady, Very Rev. Canon, St. Laurence's Presbytery, Seville-place, Dublin.

Brooke, J. T., St. David's, Naas.

Brown, Stephen J., Naas.

Browne, Rev. Hawtrey, Naas.

Browne, The Most Rev. Robert, D.D., Bishop of Cloyne.

Burke, Very Rev. E., Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

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Cane, Major Claude, St. Woltan's, Celbridge.

Carberry, Rev. Thomas, Crookstown, Ballytore.

Carroll, Frederick, Moone Abbey, Moone.

Carroll, Rev. James, Howth.

\*Clements, Colonel, D.L., Killadoon, Celbridge.

Clements, Mrs., Killadoon, Celbridge.

\*Clements, Henry J. B., Killadoon, Celbridge.

Coady, D. P., M.D., Johnstown, Straffan.

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Rathgar.

Cogan, Right Hon. W. F., Tinode, Blessington.

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Coote, Stanley, St. Michael's, Clane.

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Crosby, Rev. E. Lewis, 36, Rutland-square, Dublin.

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Dane, J. Whiteside, Osberstown Hill, Naas.

Darby, M., M.D., Monasterevan.

Davidson-Houston, Rev. B. C., St. John's Vicarage, Sydney Parade, Dublin.

Day, Robert, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., 3, Sydney-place, Cork.

Dease, Colonel G., Celbridge Abbey, Celbridge.

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De Burgh, Thomas J., D.L., Oldtown, Naas.

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Drew, Thomas, R.H.A., M.R.I.A., P.R.S.A.I., Gortnadrew Monkstown.

Duncan, J. A., Athy.

Dunne, Laurence, Dollardstown House, Athy.

Falkiner, F. J., M.D., Spring Gardens, Naas.

Ffrench, Rev. J. F. M., M.R.I.A., Ballyredmond House, Clonegal.

\*FitzGerald, Lady Eva, Kilkea Castle, Mageny, Co. Kildare.

\*FitzGerald, Lord Frederick, Kilkea Castle, Mageny, Co. Kildare.

\***FITZGERALD, LORD WALTER, M.R.I.A., Hon. Secretary**, Kilkea Castle, Mageny, Co. Kildare.

FitzGerald, Rev. W., The Vicarage, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.

Fogarty, Rev. M., Maynooth.

Follis, Rev. C. W., Emily-square, Athy.

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Garrett, Rev. George, Kilmeague, Co. Kildare.

Garstin, J. Ribton, D.L., F.S.A., M.R.I.A., Braganstown, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth.

Glover, Edward, 19, Prince Patrick-terrace, North Circular-road, Dublin.

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Higginson, Lady, Connellmore, Newbridge.

Hogan, Michael F., Celbridge.

Kelly, Rev. George, Clongowes Wood College, Sallins.

Kennedy, Robert R., R.M., Carlow.

Kirkpatrick, William, Donacomper, Celbridge.

Large, Rev. W. Somerville-, Carnalway Rectory, Kilcullen.

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Loch, J., C.I.R.I.C., The Firs, Naas.

Long, Miss A. F., Woodfield, Kilcavan, Geashill.

McMahon, General, Craddockstown, Naas.

McMahon, Mrs., Craddockstown, Naas.

Maguire, Rev. E., Maynooth.

Maguire, P. A., 2, Oldtown-terrace, Naas.

Mahony, David, D.L., Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.

Mahony, George Gun, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.

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Mayo, Dowager Countess of, 20, Eaton-square, London, S.W.

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Molloy, E., Abbeyfield, Naas.

Molloy, William R., M.R.I.A., 17, Brookfield-terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin.

\*Moran, His Eminence Cardinal, Sydney, N. S. Wales.

Morrin, Rev. Thomas, Naas.

**MURPHY, Rev DENIS**, S.J., M.R.I.A., University College, St. Stephen's-green, Dublin.

Murphy, Rev. Michael, St. Brigid's, Kildare.

\*O'Ferrall, Ambrose More, D.L., Ballyna, Moyvalley.

**O'LEARY, Very Rev. E.**, Ballyna, Moyvalley.

O'Leary, Rev. Patrick, Maynooth.

O'Meagher, J. Casimir, M.R.I.A., 45, Mountjoy-square, S., Dublin.

Owen, Arthur, Blessington.

Palmer, Charles Colley, D.L., Rahan, Edenderry.

Ponsonby, Hon. Gerald, Palmerstown, Straffan.

Ponsonby, Lady Maria, Palmerstown, Straffan.

Pratt, Mrs., Glenheste, Manor-Kilbride, Co. Dublin.

Ramsbott, Rev. William, Suncroft, Curragh Camp.

Rynd, Major R. F., Blackhall, Naas.

Saunders, Colonel, D.L., Saunders' Grove, Baltinglass.

Seaton, Lord, Bert House, Athy.

**SHERLOCK, Rev. Canon, Hon. Editor**, Sherlockstown, Naas.

Skuse, Rev. Richard D., Ballykean Rectory, Portarlinton.

Steede, J., LL.D., Rheban, Athy.

Supple, K., D.I.R.I.C., Robertstown, Co. Kildare.

Sutcliffe, J. R., Hibernian Bank, Naas.

Sweetman, E., Longtown, Naas.

Sweetman, Mrs., Longtown, Naas.

Taylor, Mark, Golden Fort, Baltinglass.  
 Thornhill, F. Evelyn, Rathangan House, Rathangan.  
**TRENCH, THOMAS COOKE, D.L.**, Millicent, Naas.  
 Trench, Mrs. Cooke, Millicent, Naas.  
 Tristram, Rev. J. W., D.D., The Rectory, Maynooth.  
 Tynan, Rev. Canon Thomas, Newbridge.

**VICARS, ARTHUR, F. S. A.**, Ulster King-of-Arms, Hon. Secretary, Clyde-  
 road, Dublin.  
 Vigers, Colonel, Holloden, Bagenalstown.

Wall, Colonel, Knockareagh, Grange Con.  
 Watt, David, Sallins Lodge, Naas.  
 Welch, Robert J., 49, Lonsdale-street, Belfast.  
 Weldon, General, Forenaughts, Naas.  
 Weldon, A. A., Kilmorony, Athy.  
 Weldon, Lady, Kilmorony, Athy.  
 Wheeler, W. I., M.D., F.R.C.S.I., 32, Merrion-square, N., Dublin.  
 White, W. Grove, 13, Upper Ormond-quay, Dublin.  
 Willis, G. de L., 4, Kildare-street, Dublin.  
 Wilson, Colonel W. F., The Vicarage, Clane.  
 Wilson, Robert M., Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.  
 Wilson, Mrs. R. M., Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.  
 Wilson, Miss R. Dupré, Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.  
 Wolfe, George, Bishopsland, Ballymore-Eustace, Naas.

Woolcombe, Robert L., LL.D., M.R.I.A., 14, Waterloo-road, Dublin.

\*Wright, Professor E. Perceval, M.D., Hon. Secretary R.I.A., 5, Trinity College,  
 Dublin.

*Hon. Member :*

Miss Margaret Stokes.

## R U L E S .

I. That this Society be called "The County Kildare Archæological Society."

II. That the purpose of the Society be the promotion of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

III. That the Society consist of a President, Vice-President, Council, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and Members. Ladies are eligible for Membership.

IV. That the affairs of the Society be managed by the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries, together with a Council of six Members. That for ordinary business two shall form a quorum; but any matter upon which a difference of opinion arises shall be reserved for another meeting, in which three shall form a quorum.

V. That two Members of the Council shall retire by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

VI. That Members pay an Annual Subscription of Ten Shillings (due on the 1st of January), and that the payment of £5 shall constitute a Life Member.

VII. That Meetings of the Society be held not less than twice in each year, one Meeting being an excursion to some place of archæological interest in the district.

VIII. That at the first Meeting of the Society in each year the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a balance-sheet.

IX. That a JOURNAL of the Society be published annually, containing the Proceedings and a column for local Notes and Queries, which shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

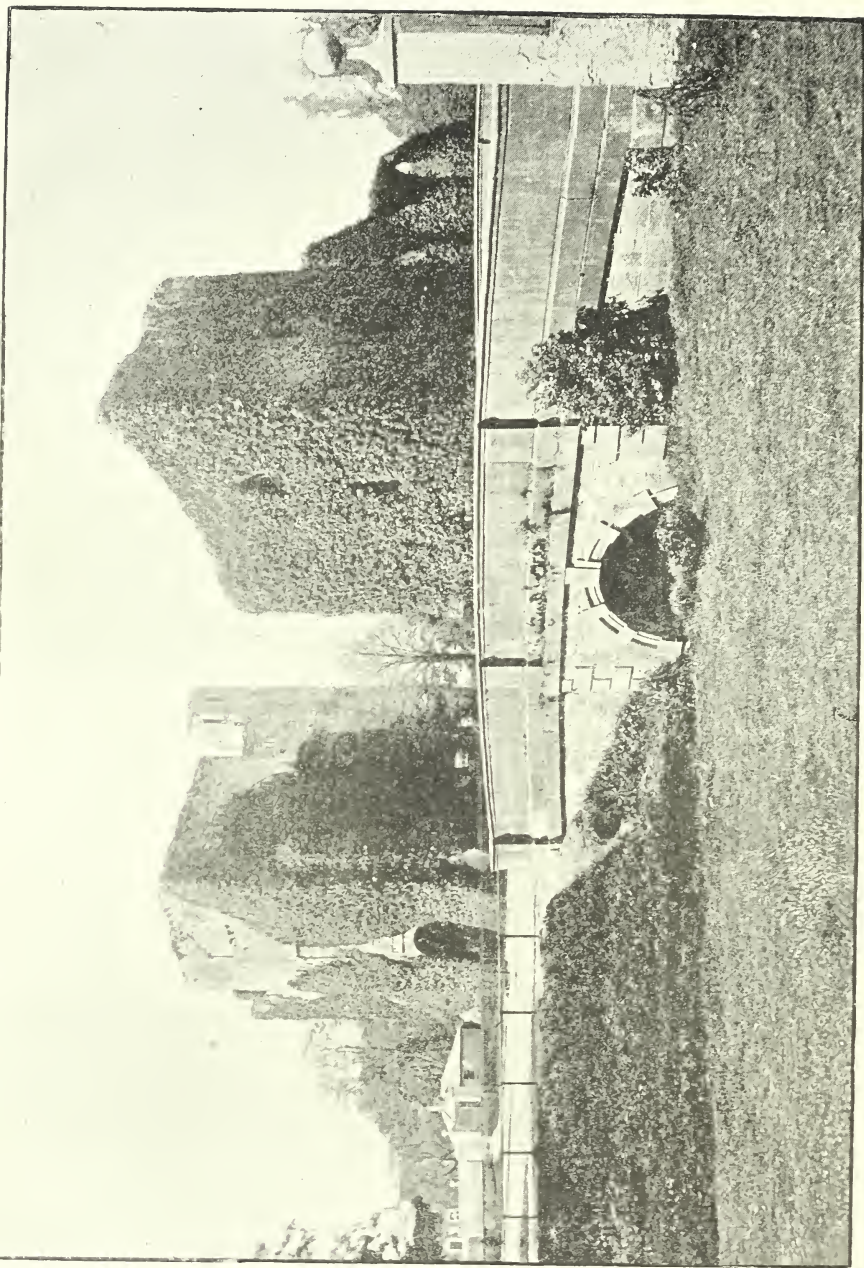
X. That the Meetings of the year be fixed by the Council, due notice of the dates of the Meetings being given to Members.

XI. That Members be at liberty to introduce visitors at the Meetings of the Society.

XII. No Member shall receive the JOURNAL if his Subscription for the previous year be not paid.







MAYNOOTH CASTLE.

MAYNOOTH CASTLE.<sup>1</sup>

THE ancient name of Maynooth was Magh Nuadhat, *i. e.* the Plain of Nuadhat, who was the maternal grandfather of the celebrated Finn M'Cumhail, and to whom this territory belonged.\*

At the time of the English Invasion the district round Maynooth, comprising all the northern portion of the county of Kildare, was called Ui Faelain, or Offelan. Within its limits was the church of Laithreach Briuin, now Laragh-bryan, which gives its name to the parish in which Maynooth stands.†

In 1176, the Manor of Maynooth was granted by Strongbow to Maurice FitzGerald, who erected the Castle for protection against the incursions of the natives, at the junction of the river Lyreen and another smaller stream.

His son Gerald, first Baron of Offaly, obtained from John, Lord of Ireland, son to Henry II., a new grant of sundry lordships, including those of "Magnoded, Lathrebryn, and Tactou."‡

In 1248, the chapel of Maynooth, which was probably attached to the Castle, was erected by Luke, Archbishop of Dublin, into a prebend of the cathedral of St. Patrick, at the request of Maurice, second Baron of Offaly, to whom the church belonged.§

Gerald, fourth Baron of Offaly, obtained from Edward I. a patent, dated 9th May, 1286, for holding a market at Maynooth every Friday, and a fair on the vigil, feast, and morrow of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin, 7th, 8th, and 9th of September.

In the beginning of the fourteenth century, the Castle of Maynooth was the principal residence of the Kildare branch of the Geraldines. In 1316, John, the first Earl of Kildare, died there.

<sup>1</sup> Read by his Grace the Duke of Leinster, September, 1893.

\* O'Donovan. "Annals of Four Masters," vol. v., p. 1420.

† *Ibid.*, vol. i., p. 365, *n.*

‡ Earl of Kildare's "Red Book." MS. compiled in 1503.

§ "Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ," vol. ii., p. 165.

In 1328, Thomas, the second Earl, "a wise and prudent man," died at Maynooth. He left the Castle and part of the manor of Maynooth as a dowry to his Countess, Johanna de Burgh, who was daughter to the Red Earl of Ulster, and sister to Ellen, the wife of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland.

The Castle, as it then stood, is described as being built of stone, with numerous offices partly of stone, and two gates, one leading to the town, and the other to the garden. The garden extended from the Castle to the fosse and to the river.\* In 1329, the Countess married Sir John Darcy, Lord Justice of Ireland, and had a son William, born at Maynooth, in 1330. She died in 1359.

During the rest of the fourteenth century, Maynooth was one of the border fortresses of the Pale, or English possessions, in the defence of which, Maurice, fourth Earl of Kildare, distinguished himself.

In 1426, the Castle was enlarged, or rebuilt by John, sixth Earl.

In 1488, after the suppression of the rebellion of Lambert Simnel, in which Gerald, eighth earl of Kildare, had taken a leading part, Sir Richard Edgcumbe, Comptroller of the Household to Henry VII., being sent to receive the oaths of allegiance of the nobility and principal citizens of Ireland, at the request of the Earl of Kildare, passed three days at the Castle of Maynooth, and (as he said) "there had right good cheere."†

In 1518, Gerald, ninth Earl of Kildare, petitioned the Archbishop of Dublin for licence to found and endow a college at Maynooth, for which purpose his fathers had assigned certain lands in the county of Meath. The licence was granted in 1521, and "the Erle then built the Collage in a most beautiful form, and placed ther a provost, vice-provost, five priests, two clerks, and three choristers, to pray for his soul, and the soul of his wife." He required that the prebend of Maynooth and his successors should be provosts of the College, and receive their daily food there. This foundation was called the "College of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Maynooth."‡ In 1537, the deputy Lord Leonard Grey,§ in a letter, dated from "ye Kynge's Castell of Meynoth," describing an inroad on the country of the O'Connors, says: "Owte of the seid abbye of Kyllegh I broght a peyer of orgons and other necessarie thinges for the Kynge's collage of Maynoth, and as mucche glas as glasid part of the

\* "Red Book," † "Hibernica," p. 64.

‡ Mason's "Cathedral of St. Patrick," p. 61.

§ State Papers, temp. Henry VIII., vol. ii., p. 529.

windows of the chyrche of the seid collage, and as muche dell of the windows of his Graces castell of Meynoth." At the suppression of the religious houses in 1538, the College of St. Mary ceased to exist. The chapel was repaired by James, Duke of Leinster, about the year 1770, and has since been used as the parish church.

In 1534, the Earl of Kildare, being then Lord Deputy, was summoned by Henry VIII. to appear before him in London, to answer certain charges which had been made against him. Before he went he furnished all his castles, and especially Maynooth, with guns and ammunition out of the royal stores. At his departure, he appointed as Vice-Deputy his son, Thomas FitzGerald, Lord Offaly, a youth who had scarcely reached his twentieth year.

Soon after, in consequence of a report that the Earl had been beheaded in the Tower of London, and that the same fate was intended for his son, Lord Offaly (who was called "Silken Thomas," from the silken trappings of the horses of himself and followers) renounced his allegiance to the King of England. Having defeated at Clontarf a small force that had marched against him, he sent his prisoners to the Castle of Maynooth, which was so strongly fortified with men and ordnance that it was said at the time, that "nothing equal to it in strength had been seen in Ireland since the English first held rule in the land." He then entrusted the command of the Castle to his foster-brother Christopher Paris, while he went into Connaught to levy forces among the Irish.

In January, 1535, by orders of the Council of Ireland, seven hundred men were sent to burn Maynooth, where there was a skirmish in which thirteen of the rebels were slain, but the royal troops retired, having suffered little loss.\*

The following account of the siege of the Castle of Maynooth is taken from Hollinshed's *Chronicles* published in 1570:

"Thomas Fitz-Giralde, having intelligence that the whole army was arrived (from England), warded the Castel of Maynooth so strongly, as he tooke it to be impregnable. And to the ende that he mighte gyve the Gouvernoure battayle, he rode towards Connaght to levie all such power of the Irish as either for wages or for good will he could winne to assist him. The Lord Deputie, forewarned of his drift, marched with the Englishhe army and the power of the Payle, to Maynoth, and

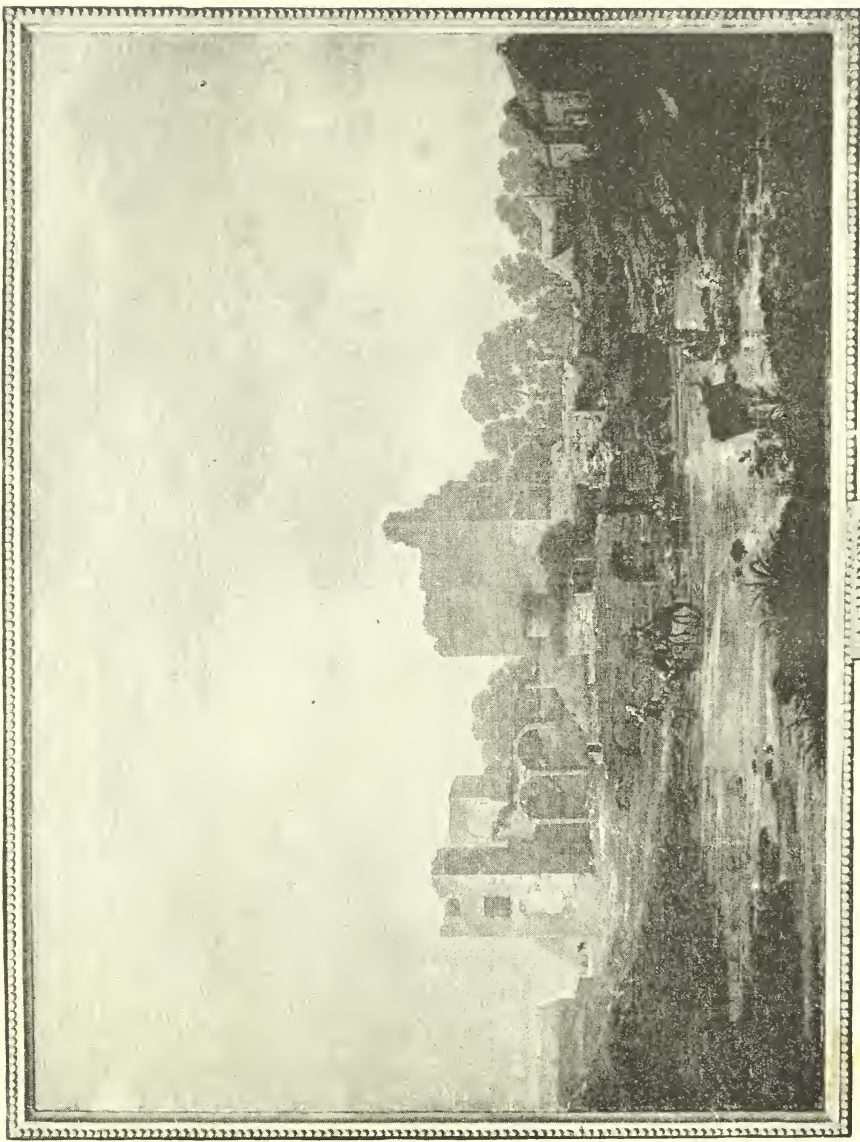
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\* State Papers, temp. Henry VIII., vol. ii., p. 221.

laid siege to the Castell\* on the north side, towards the Parke. But before any peece was discharged, Sir William Brereton, by the Deputie his appointment, did sommone the Castell, offering suche as kepte it to depart with their bagge and baggage, and besides their pardon, to bee liberally rewarded for their good and loyall service. But such as warded the Castell scornfully scoffing the knight his offer, gave him heartie thanks for his kindnesse, which they sayed proceeded rather of his gentleness than of their deserving, wishing him to keepe in store such liberal offers for a deere yeare, and to write his commendations home to his friends, and withal to keepe his head warme, for that at their hands he was like to have but a cold suite; finally, to take suche keepe of their safetie in that they were assured that he and his fellowes shoulde be sooner from the siege raised, than they from the holde removed. Upon this rounde answere, the ordinances were planted on the north side of the Castell, which made no great batterie for the space of a fortnight, yet the Castell so warely of eache side environed as the rebels were imbarred from al egresse and ingresse. Christopher Parese, foster-brother to Thomas Fitz-Giralde, to whome of especiall trust the charge of the Castell was chiefly committed, proffering his voluntarie service, which for the most part is so thanklesse and unsavoury as it stinketh, determined to goe an ace beyond his fellowes in betraying the Castell to the Governoure. In this resolution he shot out a letter endorsed to the Lorde Deputie, the effect whereof was, that hee woulde devise the means that the Castell should be taken, so that he myght have a summe of money for his paynes, and a competent stay during his life. This motion, by letters to and fro, agreed upon, Parese caused such as kept the warde to swill and boll so much, as they snorted al the night like grunting hogges, little mis-deeming that whilest they slepte, anye Judas had bin waking within the Castell. The occasion of the extraordinary exceeding was coloured for by snatching into the Castell a field peece the day before from the army, for whiche they kept such pot revels and triumphant carousing as none of them coulde discover his beddes head from the beddes feete. Parese, taking his tide and time, made signe to the army, between twilight and dawning of the day, who, having skaling ladders in readinesse, wolde not overslip the opportunitie offered. Holland, petite capitaine to Salisbury, was one of the forwardest in this exploite, who leaping downe from the wall, fell by mishap into a pipe of feathers, where he was up to the arme-pittes,

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\* On the 14th March, 1535.



ASHFORD.

MAYNOOTH CASTLE, 1779, from an Oil Painting by W. Ashford, at Carlton.





so stiffely sticking therein, and also so unwieldye in his armour, as he coulde not helpe himself neither in or out. Sir William Brereton and his bande having skaled the walles, cried on a sodaine, St. George, St. George. Three drunken swaddes that kepte the Castell, thought that this shoute was noughte else but a dreame, til the time they espied the walls full of armed men, and one of them withal perceivng Holland thus entangled in the pype, bestowed an arrow upon him, which by good hap did misse him. Holland, forthwith rescued by his fellowes, shot at the other, and strake him so full under the skull as he left him sprauling. The resistance was faint when the souldyers entered, some yelding themselves, others that withstoode them slayne. Sir William Brereton ranne up to the highest turret of the Castel, and advaunced his stander on the top thereof, notifying to the Deputie that the fort was wonne.

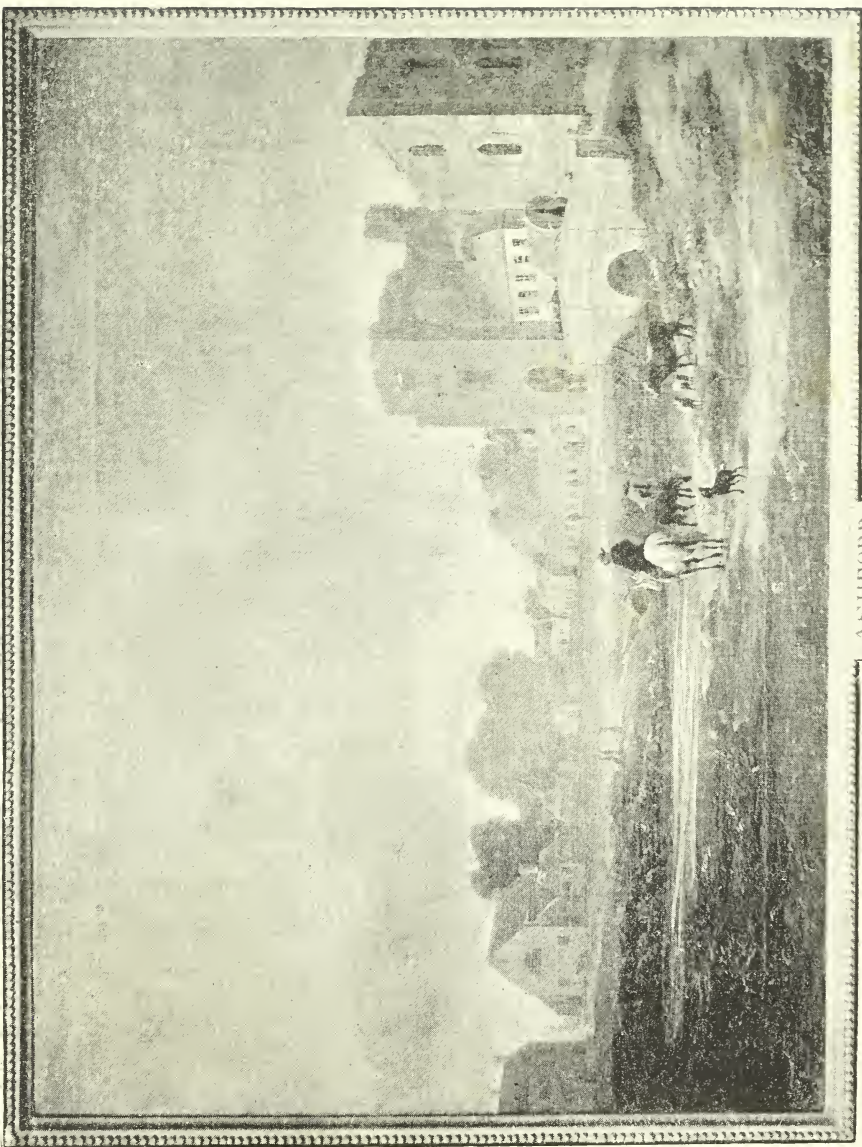
“Great and rich was the spoile ; such store of beddes, so many goodly hangings, so riche a wardrob, suche brave furniture, as truely it was accompted for householde stuffe and utensiles, one of the richest earle his houses under the crowne of Englande.

“The Lord Deputie entred the Castell in the afternoone, upon whose repaire James Delahyde and Hayward, two singing men of the Earle his chappell, that were taken prisoners, prostrated themselves on the ground, pitifully warbling a song named ‘Dulcis Amica.’ The Governour, ravished with the sweete and delicate voices, at the instance of Girald Aylemer, Chiefe Justice, and others of the Counsell, pardoned them. Christopher Parese, not misdoubting but that he should have bin dub knight for his service done that day, presented himself before the Governoure, with a cheerefull and familiar countenance, as who should say, ‘Heere is he that did the deede.’ The Deputie, very coldly, and halfe sternely casting an eye towards him, said, ‘Parese, I am to thank thee on my master the Kynge his behalfe, for this thy proffered service, which I must acknowledge to have bin a sparing of greate charges, and a saving of many valiant souldyers lives to his Highnesse ; and when his Majestie shall bee thereof advertised, I dare be bolde to say, that he will not see thee lacke during thy life. And by cause I may be the better instructed how to reward thee during my governement, I would gladly learne what thy lorde and master bestowed upon thee.’ Parese, set agogge with these milde speeches, and supposing that the more hee recited, the better hee should be rewarded, lefte not untolde the meanest good turne that ever he received at his lords hands. ‘Why, Parese,’ quoth the Deputie, ‘couldst thou finde in thine hearte to betray his

Castell who hath bin so good a lorde to thee? Truly thou that art so hollow to him, wilt never be true to us.' And therewithall turning his talke to his officers, he gave them commandment to delyver Parese the summe of money that was promised him upon the surrender of the Castell, and after to choppe off his head. Parese, at this colde salutation of 'farewell and be hanged,' turning his simpring to whimpring, said, 'My lord, had I wist you would have dealte so straitely with me, your lordship shoulde not have wonne the forte with as little bludshed as you dyd.' Whereat M. Boice, a gentleman of worship, and one that retheyned to that olde Earle of Kildare, standing in the preasse, saide in Irishe, 'Antragh,' which is as much in Englishe as 'Too late.' Whereof grewe the Irishe proverbe, to thys day in that language used: 'Too late, quoth Boice,' as we say, 'Beware of had I wist;' or 'After meate mustard;' or, 'You came a day after the faire;' or, 'Better done than sayde. The Deputie demanded of them that stode by, what was that he spake. M. Boyce, willing to expounde his owne wordes, stept forth and answered; 'My Lord, I said nothing but that Parese is seised of a towne neere the water side, named Baltra, and I would gladly know how he wil dispose it before hee bee executed.' The Governoure, notmistrusting that M. Boice had glozed (for if he had understood the true signification of the tearme, it was very like that 'too late' had not bin so sharp to Parese, but 'too soone' had bin a soure to him), willed the money to be tolde to Parese, and presently caused him to be cut shorter by the head, declaring thereby, that although for the time he embraced the benefyte of the treason, yet after he could not digest the treacherie of the traytor. The Deputie, having left a garrison in the Castell, returned with the army triumphantly to Dublin."

Among the state papers\* is the following account of the siege of Maynooth, in a letter written by the Lord Deputy, Sir William Skeffington and the Council of Ireland, to the King, dated 26th March, 1535.

"May it please your Moost Excellent Highnes to be advertised that I, your Deputie, with your armye in these parties, the 14th day of Marche last past, beseaged the Castell of Maynooth, which by your traitor and rebell, Thomas Fitz-Gerolde, was so stronglie fortified booth with men and ordenaunce, as the liek hath not been seen in Irlonde, synes anny your moost nobell progenitors had furst domynion in the lande. Ther was within the same above 100 habill men, wherof wer above 60 gonnors. The 16th day of said monith, your ordenaunce was bent upon the north west side of the dungen of the same Castell, which



ASHFORD.

MAYNOOTH CASTLE AND CHURCH, 1780, from an Oil Painting by W. Ashford, at Carton.



ded baitter the top therof on that wise, as ther ordenaunce within that parte was dampned; which doone, your ordenaunce was bent upon the northe side of\* the base corte of the said Castell, at the north east ende wherof ther was new made a very stronge and fast bulwark, well garnished with men and ordenaunce, which the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, and 22nd dayes of the said monithe, ded beat the same by night and daye, on that wise, that a great batery and a large enterie was made ther; wherupon the 23rd day, being the Tewsdaye next before Eister Day, ther was a galiarde assaulte gyven betwixt fower and fyve of the clocke in the mornyng, and the base corte entered. At which entery, ther was slayne of the warde of the Castell about 60, and your Graces armye no more but John Griffen, yeman of your moost honorable Guarde, and sex other, which wer killed with ordenaunce of the Castell at the entree. Howbeit, if it had not pleased God to preserve us, it wer to be marveled that we had no more slayne. After the base corte was thus wonne we assaulted the great Castell, which within a while yelded; wherin was the Dean of Kildare, Christopher Parys, capitayne of the garysone, Donough O'Dogan, maister of the ordenaunce, Sir Symon Walshe, priste, and Nicholas Wafer, which tooke the Archbusshop of Dublin, with dyvers other gunners and archers, to the number of 37; which wer al taken prysoners, and ther lifes preserved by appoyntment untill they shulde be presented to me, your Deputie, and then to be orderid as I and your Counsaill thought good. And considering the high enterprise and presumption attempted by them ayenst your Graces Crowne and Majestie, and also that if, by anny meane, they shulde escape, the moost of them beyng gunners, at some other tyme wold semblablie elliswhear aide your traitors, and be example and meane to others to doo lykewise, we all thought expedient and requisite that they should be put to execution, for the dread and example of others. According wherunto, the Thursday folowing in the mornyng they were examyned, and ther despositions written; and after none the same daye arrayned before the Propheest Marshall and capitannes, and ther, poun ther awne confessions adjudged to die, and ymmediatly 25 of them before the gate of the Castell heeded and oon hanged. Dyverse of the heedes of the principalles incontynentlie were put upon the turrets of the Castell."†

In another letter from the Deputy, it is mentioned that

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\* State Papers, vol. ii., p. 236.

† The Dean of Kildare is said by Ware to have been one of those who were put to death.

Lord Leonard Grey offers to take the manor of Maynooth, and to pay the King the same rent (400 marks) as was received from it by the Earl of Kildare, "*who was the gretest improver of his landis in this land*; and also to enclose the parke agayne at his own chargis."\*

In April 1535 the Earl of Ossory "brought yn O'More and came to Maynoth" where the Deputy was. The Chief swore allegiance and gave hostages for his future conduct.†

In a Parliament held in Dublin, in May, 1536, a bill of attainder was passed against the Earl of Kildare and his heirs, declaring his estates forfeited to the Crown. Maynooth thus became a royal Castle, and appears to have been the favourite residence of the Lords Deputy, till it was restored to the Earl of Kildare in 1552. Sir William Skeffington resided there till his death in 1535, when his successor, Lord Leonard Gray, made it his residence till his recall in 1540; as did Sir Anthony St. Leger, who succeeded him.

On the 10th June, 1538, the Council wrote to the Secretary of State, Cromwell, that Lord Leonard Grey has summoned the O'More, and the sons of the late O'More, between whom there were discussions, to appear before him, and having heard both parties "sent the same O'More in a hand lok to Maynoth, wherehe deteyneth the hym and suffred the said Kedaghe, at his libertie to departe to his owne countre."‡

Another accusation against Lord Leonard was "Item whan he commythe to the manor of Maynothe and elsewhere, his servauntes and horses reasorte to the husbandmens houses, and there do lye as longe as it shall please theme, and at their departing do paie nothing for horsemeat and mansmeate."§

In 1540 John Allen, Master of the Rolls, and his brother Thomas Allen, were appointed to the office of Constable of the Castle of Maynooth, Seneschal of the Courts, Supervisor, Apparitor, and Keeper of the King's Manor and Lordships of Maynooth, and of the woods and forests there, and Keeper or Parker of the King's Park.||

On the 25th October, 1548, John Plunkett and Thomas Allen wrote to the Lord Deputy Bellingham that the House of Maynooth "is in hast forthewarned, and wol be the fairest stable and garnell in Ireland."

In 1550, Con Baccagh O'Neill, the Chief of Tyrone, went

\* State Papers, vol. ii., p. 300.

† *Ibid.*, vol. ii., p. 251.

‡ *Ibid.*, vol. iii., p. 25.

§ *Ibid.*, vol. iii., p. 43.

|| "Liber Munerum Hiberniæ," Part II., p. 127.

to Maynooth, to the Lord Deputy, and made his submission to the King's authority.\*

In 1552, the Manor and Castle of Maynooth were restored by Edward VI. to Gerald, eleventh Earl of Kildare, who died in 1585. His Countess lived during her widowhood in the "fair House of Minuth."†

In 1696, Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, and Rory O'Donnell, Earl of Tyrconnell, held the meetings in which they concerted their plans of a general insurrection, in the Castle of Maynooth; and it was in the Castle garden that they first proposed to Richard, Lord Delvin, to take a part in their designs. The Countess of Kildare, in a letter addressed to Lord Salisbury some time after, expressed her regret "that the late treasons should have been plotted at Maynooth, and strongly protested her own innocence."‡

In August, 1610, the Countess Mabel died, and her nephew the Earl came into possession of Maynooth Castle, where he died in February, 1612.

In 1618, it appears that the only deer-parks in Ireland were those of the Earl of Kildare at Maynooth, and the Earl of Ormonde in Munster.§

In or about 1629, a letter was sent to the Lords Justices of Ireland, by order of Charles I., in which it is stated that, as the title deeds of George, sixteenth Earl, then a minor, were in the custody of Christopher FitzGerald, formerly servant to Gerald, late Earl, and who had grown very weak from old age, he directed them to be placed under the charge of Lord Aungier, uncle to the Earl, and of Sir William Talbot of Carton, in a chest with three Locks, one key to be kept by the guardians of the Earl, another by Lord Aungier, and the third by Sir W. Talbot. On the 31st August, 1629, Lord Aungier wrote to the Earl that he ought to be very careful of his title deeds, now in the possession of the old steward, a faithful servant of his house, kept in a part of Maynooth Castle, called the Council House, strongly built of stone, a little remote from the house towards the garden.||

The remains of the Council House were removed about the year 1780, and on the site was erected a dwelling, which is now the centre of the College of St. Patrick, facing the town. The old doorway is now the entrance of the Protestant school-house,

\* Ware's "Annals."

† Moryson's "Ireland," vol. i., p. 201.

‡ State Papers, MS.

§ Moryson's "Ireland," vol. ii., p. 367.

|| MS. Letters of George Earl of Kildare, 1624.

in which is also an old window, probably formerly belonging to the Council House. The stone table of Gerald Earl of Kildare, which bears the date of 1533, and which is now in the garden in front of the house, at Carton, was originally in the Council House.

The Castle appears to have fallen into a state of dilapidation during the minority of George, sixteenth Earl, and was repaired by the celebrated Richard, first Earl of Cork, in 1630. He placed over the principal gate the following inscription :

“ This ancient mannor house of Maynooth, being totally ruined and ready to fall, was new built and enlarged by the Right Honourable Richard Boyle, Knight, Lord Boyle, Baron of Youghal, Viscount Dungarvan, Earl of Cork, the Lord High Treasurer of Ireland, and one of the two Lord Justices in the government of the Kingdom ; who, being guardian of the lands and body of the Right Honourable George, the fyfteenth Earl of Kildare, to whom, with Royal assent of the King’s Majestie, he gave his fourth daughter, the Lady Joan Boyle, in marriage, built this house for him at his own charge, in anno 1630.”\*

The Earl of Kildare resided in the Castle until the breaking out of the civil war of 1641.

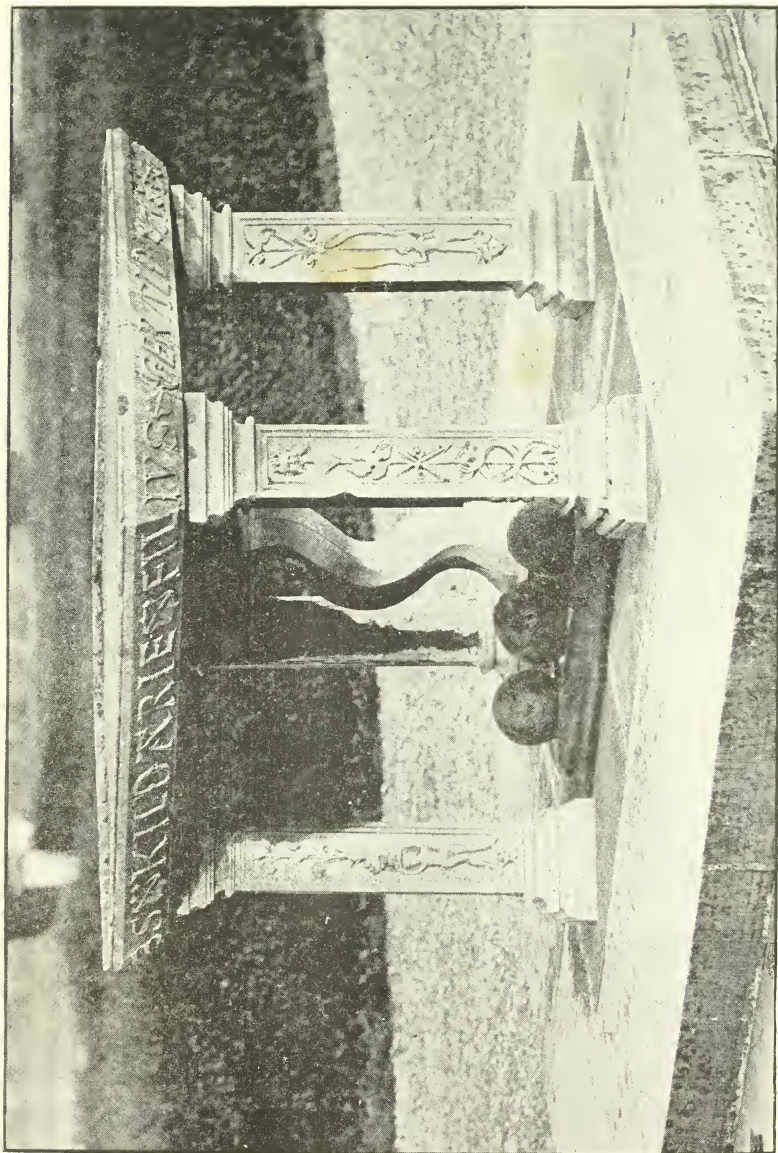
On the 7th January, 1641–2, Lawrence Walsh, of Moortown, a priest, with Patrick Welsh of the same place, and their followers, rifled and spoiled the Castle, and took away such arms as they could find, leaving some of their party to keep the Castle. On the next day, Saturday, Edward FitzGerald, of Belagh, John FitzGerald, a sergeant major, Christopher FitzGerald, of Kilcock, and his sons James and Edward, with about a hundred men, took possession of the Castle, and park. The household furniture, &c., was worth at least £200 ; the stock, including thirty-nine English cows and oxen, and thirty horses, worth £270, and corn and hay valued at £300. They destroyed the library,† which was of great value, and kept the Earl out of possession of lands and rents amounting to £600 a-year.

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\* The stone on which this inscription was cut is of a bad, peeling quality, and when the Marquis of Kildare (afterwards fourth Duke of Leinster) was trying to decipher it, he found that only a word here and there was legible. But while so occupied, an old man came up and said he could repeat the inscription word for word, as, when a gossoon at school in Maynooth, the master frequently used it for dictation, and so it became firmly impressed in his mind. Hence its recovery.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

† A catalogue (now among the MSS. in the British Museum) of the library of Gerald Earl of Kildare, in 1526, contains the names of thirty-four works in Latin, thirty-seven in French, twenty-two in English, and fourteen in Irish.





THE STONE TABLE OF GERALD THE 9TH EARL OF KILDARE, NOW AT CARTON.

The inscription runs as follows :—

GERALDVS COMES KILDARIE FILIVS GERALDI Aº DºI MCCCCCXXXIIIº SI DIEV PLET FROM A BO.



In July, 1643, the Castle was occupied by Captain Michael Jones, under the Marquis of Ormonde.

In July, 1644, the Earl of Kildare wrote to the Marquis from Maynooth, that it was reported that the Scots were approaching that place, and asking for additional men to defend the Castle; that he had lately taken down the spouts, which had furnished him with a great supply of lead; and that if he had a corresponding quantity of powder, he would lose his life before he would surrender the Castle. Lord Ormonde replied that he did not think there was any immediate danger from the Scots, but as soon as there was occasion, he would send a reinforcement of men and powder.\* The Earl was still in the Castle in September. In November, 1646, it was occupied by a detachment sent by General Preston, who was encamped at Leixlip (intending to march on Dublin), and on his retreat it was re-taken by the Parliamentarians.†

In 1647, while General Owen O'Neill was encamped at Trim, he sent a strong detachment to take Maynooth Castle. In the Rinucini MSS. it is stated—"23 July the Irish took the very strong and very ancient palace of the Earl of Kildare (Moynudium, anglice Maynooth), scaling through the windows and losing sixteen of their men. The beseiged losing courage submitted themselves to the mercy of the catholics. The plunder was given up to the soldiers. Two captains, as many lieutenants, and six inferior officers, and a hundred men were made prisoners, besides women and children; and three standards were taken. Among the English garrison were some Irish, of whom the old men and women were spared, but twenty-six men, some officers were hung." The castle was then dismantled.

The Earl dying in 1656, and his son Wentworth, seventeenth Earl, residing at Kilkea Castle, Maynooth, remained uninhabited, and gradually fell into ruins, in which state it is thus described, in 1682, by Thomas Monk, in his "Account of the County of Kildare":‡—"Maynooth, where is to be seen the remains of an ancient pile, venerable in its ruins, and which did partake of the hottest, and felt the fiercest mallice of a revengefull enemie in the last rebellion."

Subsequently there were erected among the ruins, houses, and other buildings, which in 1848 were taken down by the Duke of Leinster, who enclosed and planted the space round the Castle.

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\* Carte Papers, MS. † Perfect Occurrences, 27th Nov., 1646. ‡ MS.

## A D D E N D A.

I will here add a few observations by Miss Margaret Stokes on these ruins as they now stand:—

This great castle, one of the largest and strongest in Ireland, is a very fine illustration of that peculiarity of Irish domestic architecture in which the characteristic features of the military fortress and the domestic dwelling may be seen in common. These are, in fact, one and the same building. The castles and towers of Ireland were indeed, with few exceptions, the only dwelling-houses of the nobility and gentry of the country until the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Such an architectural style as was developed in France in the thirteenth century is unknown in Ireland at that date. Mansions with carved balconies and pretty corner turrets and arcades and quaint gargoyles never found a footing here. A fourteenth-century dwelling-house, such as that of Cardinal Jouffroi, and many others I observed in Luxeuil in the Haute Saone, is not to be met with in Ireland. This fact is only to be explained by the history of the country, its unsettled state rendering it unsafe to live in a house that was not strongly fortified.

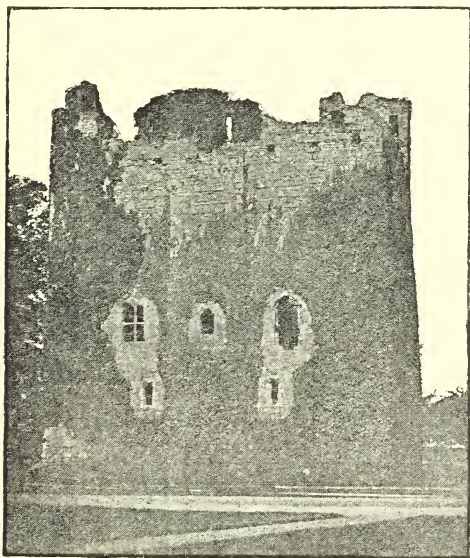
The portions of this castle of Maynooth to which it is desirable to direct your attention in the first instance are those which we may believe to be the original work of Maurice Fitzgerald in 1176, when the manor of Maynooth was granted to him by Strongbow. It is a remarkable fact, as stated by a good authority on our Norman architecture, John Henry Parker, of Oxford, that although this castle was enlarged at various times, yet, while such additions have almost entirely disappeared, the greater part of the original work still remains. This may be accounted for by the durable character of the massive early Norman masonry.\*

The examination of the ruin should commence with the Keep, whose walls, 8 feet in thickness, are still in perfect con-

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\* See "Archæologia," vol. xxxviii.

dition. Secondly, the gate-house and gate-ways of the castle. In these portions we find what remains of twelfth-century work. The ground floor of the Keep is divided by a wall into two large vaulted chambers, the entrance into which—now closed up—was at one corner. Above this basement is the first floor, which is also divided into two large rooms; they are lofty and of fine proportions, and served as the chief apartments in the building. In the principal room on the middle floor there are little chambers in the side walls, each measuring 8 feet



THE KEEP, MAYNOOTH CASTLE.

6 inches long by 4 feet 10 inches wide. A spiral staircase led to the parapet. Mr. Parker thinks that the chambers in the upper storey were lower and smaller than those on the first floor, but here he seems to be mistaken.

We now come to the additions made to this building in the thirteenth century, the great corner tower, and three large round arches belong to this period. This tower was probably connected with the twelfth-century gate-house by a range of buildings now destroyed; and the three wide-spanned round arches, which, in consequence of their solitary position, now produce so singular an effect, are held by Mr. Parker to have once carried

the vaults of this wing of the castle. The doorway to the corner tower is an example of the transmission of the early type of native Irish doorway into a Norman building; it is high and narrow, with a horizontal lintel. It has inclined jambs, the aperture being wider at the bottom than that at the lintel.

In the fifteenth century another oblong tower was added, which is now used as a belfry to the Protestant parish church.

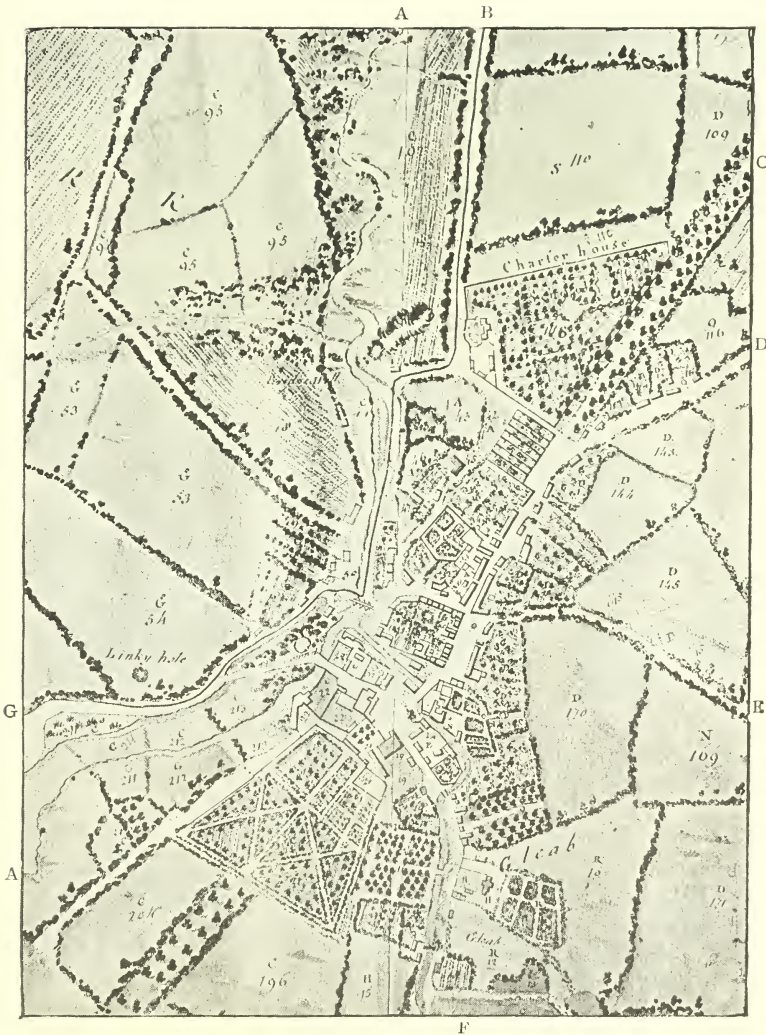
This church, restored by James, Duke of Leinster, about the year 1770, was originally the chapel of the Castle of Maynooth, as of the College of St. Mary, which ceased to exist at the suppression of the religious houses in 1538. In a letter, dated 1537, written by the Deputy Lord Leonard Grey in the Castle of Maynooth, he describes an inroad on the country of the O'Connors, and how he brought for the enrichment of this church of Maynooth the plunder of the Abbey sacred to St. Sinceall of Cill Achaidh, now Killeigh. The entry, already quoted above, is an interesting one as bearing on the question of the comparative civilization of the Normans and the native Irish:—

“Owte of the seid abbye of Kyllegh I broght a peyer of orgons and other necessarie thinges for the Kynges collage of Maynoth, and as muche glas as glasad part of the windous of the chyrche of the seid collage, and as muche dell of the windous of his Graces castell of Meynoth.”

A traveller, writing in the *Dublin Penny Journal* in the year 1832, remarks upon this ruined castle of Maynooth, which he passed on his way to Connaught:—“Many of the quoins and of the very few ornaments belonging to this castle are of calcareous tufa, a recent fresh-water formation, and by no means common or abundant in Ireland. It appears to be a soft, perishable material, and yet there it has stood for centuries, as quoins in the old fortress; nay, more, I have seen it in the island of Holme Patrick, near Skerries, from windows, door-cases, and the cryptic roof of a chapel said to be built by Saint Patrick, but which certainly is one thousand years old.”

It is to be lamented that the main features of Maynooth Castle, its ornamental portions, its principal door-ways, windows, and corbels are so ruined that it is now impossible to give any idea of their original form.

The few observations here offered must not be considered as an exhaustive description of this remarkable ruin. It is to be hoped that the members of the Kildare Archæological Society will only regard them as introductory remarks which may lead



Photographed from a hand-painted Map of Maynooth, drawn by John Rocque for James Earl of Kildare, 1757.

SOME OF THE REFERENCES.

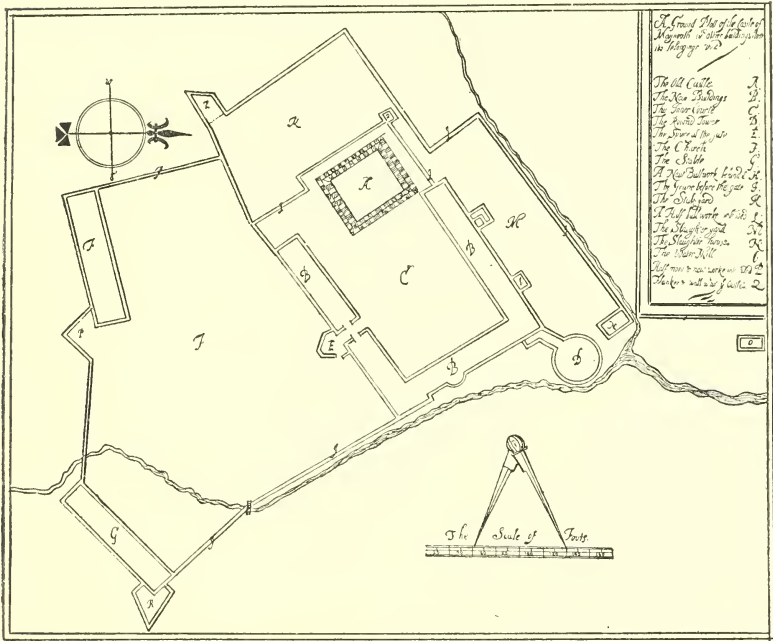
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|---|---|
| <p>16. Gregory's Orchard, afterwards Rivers-<br/>town House, and now the Dunboyne<br/>Institute of Maynooth College.</p> <p>20. Protestant Church and Schoolhouse.</p> <p>21. Councillor Francis McManus's Dwel-<br/>ling-house, &amp;c., where Maynooth<br/>College and Grounds are now<br/>situated.</p> <p>22. The ruins of the Castle, containing<br/>several dwelling-houses, two still-<br/>houses, stable-yard and garden.</p> | <p>33. The Kildare Arms Inn.</p> <p>145. Monagark.</p> <p>170. Parknasheooge.</p> <p>171. Sheeloge</p> <p>A The River Lyreen.<br/>B Road to Dunboyne.<br/>C To Carton.<br/>D Road to Dublin.<br/>E Road to Straffan.<br/>F Road to Rathcoffey.<br/>G Road to Kilcock.</p> |
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them on to a closer examination of the building, and thence to others of the same class throughout the country.

The military and domestic architecture of Ireland has yet to be treated in the same learned and able manner as that of England has been dealt with by Mr. George T. Clarke. The



“A GROUND PLOTT OF THE CASTLE OF MAYNOOTH W<sup>th</sup> OTHER BUILDINGS THERETOO BELONGEINGE.”

(Photographed from a hand-drawn Map (about 18 inches square) at Carton, 1630.)

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| A The old Castle.           | I The Greene before the Gate.                               |
| B The new Buildings.        | K The Stak-yard.  |
| C The Inner Court.          | L A half Bullworke intended.                                |
| D The Round Tower.          | M The Slaughter-yard.                                       |
| E The Spurr at the Gate.    | N The Slaughter-house.                                      |
| F The Church.               | O The Water Mill.   |
| G The Stable.               | P Half Moone and new worke intended.                        |
| H A new Bullwork behind it. | Q Flanker & Wall w <sup>th</sup> out y <sup>e</sup> Castle. |

late George Petrie, in his unpublished essay on the military architecture of Ireland, dwells principally on the defensive structures of pre-historic times. He refers to some entries in the Irish Annals relating to castles built before the Normans came into Ireland. These were Irish castles, built by Irish hands,

but all the original work having been replaced by building of a later date no architectural description of the originals can be offered. Petrie believes that they were circular in form, and he can give little more information about them than the names and dates of those that are known to have been built by Turlough and Roderick O'Connor.

There are three castles, the ruins of which are still in existence, held by Petrie to be purely Irish both in origin and in style. They are the castles of Aghadoe and Loughoughter, and the Hag's Castle in Lough Mask, Co. Mayo. The latter has been partially described, but never fully illustrated by Petrie, Sir William Wilde, Lord Dunraven, and Dr. William Stokes in his *Life of Petrie*; and Mr. George T. Clarke, though not venturing to offer any opinion as to its date, has ranked it in style with the shells such as are now to be seen at Cardiff, Arundel, Tamworth, Lincoln, &c.

Whether any traces of such early work still remain in the county of Kildare is yet to be discovered; and the ruins in which search for such should be made are those of the castles of Kildare of which we offer the following list:—

Maynooth Castle.	Castle Dermot.
Kilkea Castle.	Castle Carbery.
Kildare.	Kilteel Castle.
Rathangan.	Kilberry.
Woodstock.	Castle Reedy.
White Castle of Athy.	Castle Rickard.

Of these castles the last-mentioned has been entirely destroyed. The castles of Woodstock, Athy, Kilberry, and Castle Reedy have been described in more or less detail by the Rev. J. Carroll; Kilteel Castle by Lord Mayo; Jigginstown by Mr. Vicars, and Grangemellon by Mr. Weldon in the pages of our JOURNAL. But these accounts are generally more historical than architectural.

How many of the castles here enumerated were on the sites of fortresses of native Irish chieftains I have not yet been able to discover. Castle Dermot is said to have belonged to the O'Tooles, and others may have been enlarged and restored after falling into the hands of their Norman conquerors, but one thing is certain about these buildings, that the distinctive national character which marks the ecclesiastical architecture of Ireland, and which is still traceable in her mediæval abbeys, also distinguishes her military architecture, that is the combination of the domestic dwelling-house with the fortress. In the high pitched, stone-roofed churches of Ireland the domestic apart-

ments of the monks were in the storeys above the sanctuary, and the picturesque outline of the jagged Irish battlement crowning the walls of our abbeys gives a distinctive character springing from the circumstances of their builders and the necessities of the times.

It is in the study of such idiosyncracies that the interest of our subject lies. Like the lines upon an aged face that tell of noble strife in battle with our peers, of toil and long endurance in the past, lines also may be read upon the rent walls of the fortress churches of our learned and holy men, and the fortress homes of our noblest knights, that may reveal a yet unwritten history of effort and of fiery trial, out of which the people of these British islands were to come fused and welded into one.

*NOTES ON IRISH RIBBON WORK IN  
ORNAMENTATION.*

By THOMAS COOKE TRENCH, D.L.

**T**HE most permanent works which men have left behind them in all ages have been those in earth or stone, whether buildings properly so called, or monumental monoliths; and hence it has come to pass that all the Papers to which we have had the pleasure of listening at previous meetings, with the exception of such as are of a genealogical nature, have had to do with these—their structure, history, and peculiarities. It may, perhaps, not be an altogether unacceptable break if I endeavour to trace—not the history in the sense of whence the art came, and how, and when, for I lack the learning necessary for this—but the mode in which those beautiful patterns were built up, which adorn not only the crosses and other works in stone in Ireland, but also the finest of her metal work. It is a very limited subject, yet I think I need hardly apologise to you for drawing your attention to a matter so essentially Irish.

At one of our meetings Father Denis Murphy, in giving some description of a beautiful pastoral staff, which was exhibited, graphically interlaced his fingers and told you that when such like was found in ornamental work it might be taken as Irish—nor is its interest confined to this country. In old days of Christian unity, to which, from whatever standpoint we view it, we must all look back with longing and regret, Ireland was a great missionary centre. In God's good providence our country may become such again, but in the meantime it is of profound interest to us to trace on the Continent the footsteps of Columbanus, of Finian, of Donatus, and many others. Where these have been we generally find traces of the work which we are now considering. Till quite lately it has been assumed that where we find this work abroad, we might be pretty sure that there Irish missionaries, or at least their disciples, had first raised the standard of the Cross. The best authorities seem now to think that Irish pilgrims rather brought this art from the Continent than exported it thither. However this may be, there can be no doubt that its antiquity is very great.

We have all, I hope, seen the Book of Kells, dating back to the sixth century, some of the ornaments of which Wyatt says that he attempted to copy, but broke down in despair. Another writer, Mr. J. O. Westwood, writes:—"I have counted in a space scarce  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch in length by less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch wide no fewer than 158 interlacements of a slender ribbon pattern, formed of white lines edged with black ones. The invention and skill far surpass all found in ancient manuscripts by Continental artists. The artists who executed the MSS. were the same who originated the stone crosses. The style in both is essentially the same." And of the still older Book of Kildare, Giraldus Cambrensis says, that amongst all the miraculous things at Kildare, nothing surprised him so much as that wonderful Book, said to be written from the dictation of an angel in St. Brigid's own time.

O'Neill, in the preface to his work on the Fine Arts of Ireland, says:—"A style which was completely national, and which was carried to such high excellence, deserves our best attention, whether we consider the practical utility of such examples, the interest attached to a style thoroughly original, national, and brought to perfection, or the light which history receives from the facts which it displays." And again, in words that I would adopt and make my own, he says:—"That a style should thus have arisen in ancient Ireland, have attained a perfection beyond which we cannot imagine it possible to pass, should have been practised for centuries, and been diffused throughout Europe for ages, and yet have declined, perished, and be all but totally forgotten, and this, too, within the historic period, constitutes a series of events that fill us with astonishment, and serve to show how worthless history may be, and how necessary and valuable are the labours of the archaeologists to enlighten and correct the statements of the historian."\*

While building the Church of St. Michael's in the adjoining parish,† which, as most of you are probably aware, is Irish from the foundation to the roof, I sought everywhere for examples of this work to introduce into it; but I was much exercised, first, by the small number of patterns available, and, secondly, by the thought, why should we be confined to a servile reproduction of old patterns? Why should we not be able to produce patterns as well as these men of old? I tried, and struggled, and thought, but for long with no result. What I thought beautiful patterns grew up under my hand, but always, just as I was bringing one

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\* O'Neill's "Fine Arts of Ancient Ireland," Preface, page 6.

† St. Michael's Church, Clane.

to a finish, some fatal crossing appeared, and the whole was a wreck. It was plain that there was some fundamental principle, which, if one could only grasp it, would leave the rest easy. I consulted every authority that I could get hold of, living and dead. Even Miss Stokes could throw no light upon it. The Librarian of the Royal Irish Academy produced volumes which touched upon the question, but without solving it. If an elucidation of this mystery is to be found anywhere, I thought, it will surely be in O'Neill's Irish crosses; but there I only found what I have quoted, that the art had declined and perished. I was driven to the conclusion that it was a lost art. Suddenly, one day, it flashed upon me what the underlying principle must be. I tested it, and found it work. Since then I have made many drawings, not a few of which are reproduced in St. Michael's Church. I subsequently found that another gentleman, Mr. Romilly Allen, had made the same discovery, and had communicated it in a Paper read to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, a copy of which he was kind enough to send to me, and which will be found on the table. There is, however, this difference between his method and mine, that while he, in the true spirit of an antiquary, confines himself to unravelling old examples, I, more in the spirit of a builder, have sought to produce fresh patterns *ad libitum*.

I will now ask you to examine with me the example of this work which is before you (fig. 1), taken from the cross of Tuam, and perhaps the most perfect extant of this especial kind of work. First, however, let me observe that there are many types of interlacing work, that for instance formed of grotesque animals, whose tails alone interlace; but what I want you to consider now is that of the endless ribbon. This is composed of one or more endless ribbons, interlaced so as always to cross under and over alternately. "A general agreement united to a special irregularity," is mentioned by O'Neill as characteristic of this work, and this is beautifully illustrated in our example. If you will begin in any corner, and follow the ribbon throughout, you will find that, while it wanders in apparently the most aimless and reckless way about the surface, by the time you arrive back at the point from which you started it has arranged itself into an intelligible and orderly pattern, devoid of repetition, but containing a general harmony throughout, one knot or twist balanced by a corresponding, though totally different one; and all through the ribbons cross one another, alternately under and over, without a single break.

If any think this all very easy and simple, I will ask them with the pattern before their eyes to try and copy it. I will give



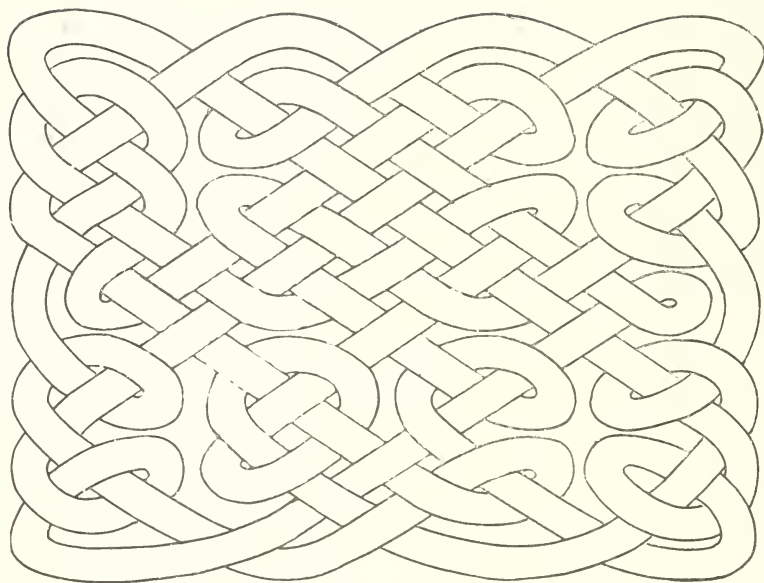


FIG. 1.

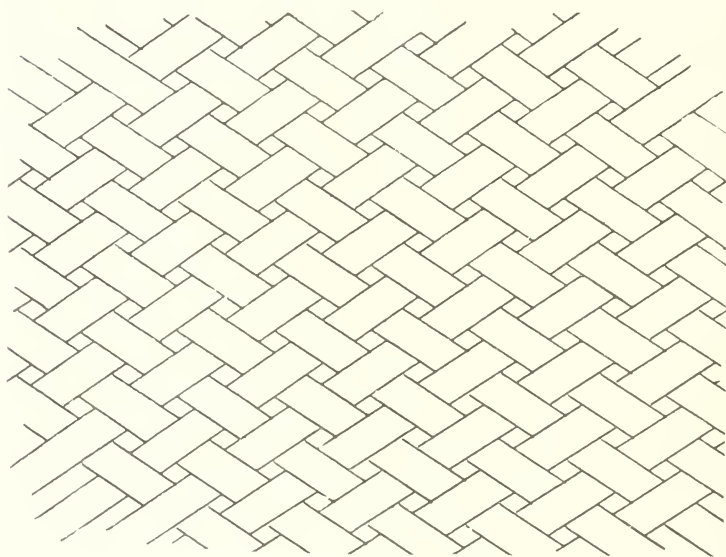


FIG. 2.



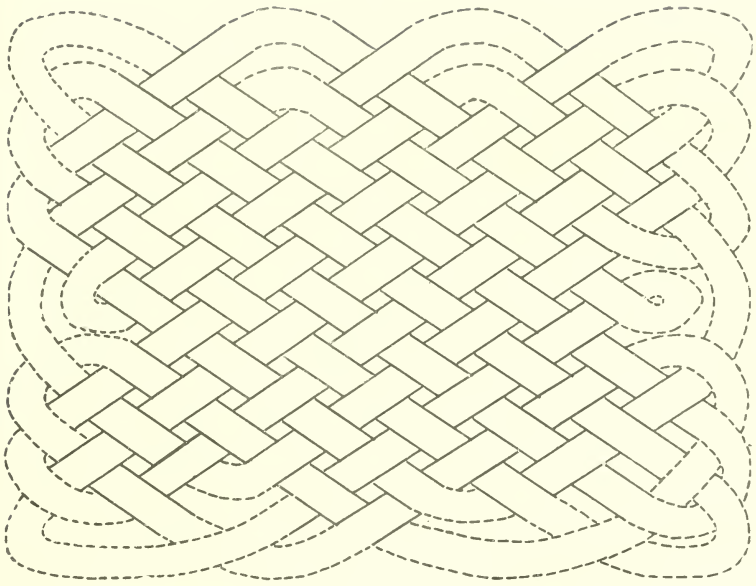


FIG. 3.

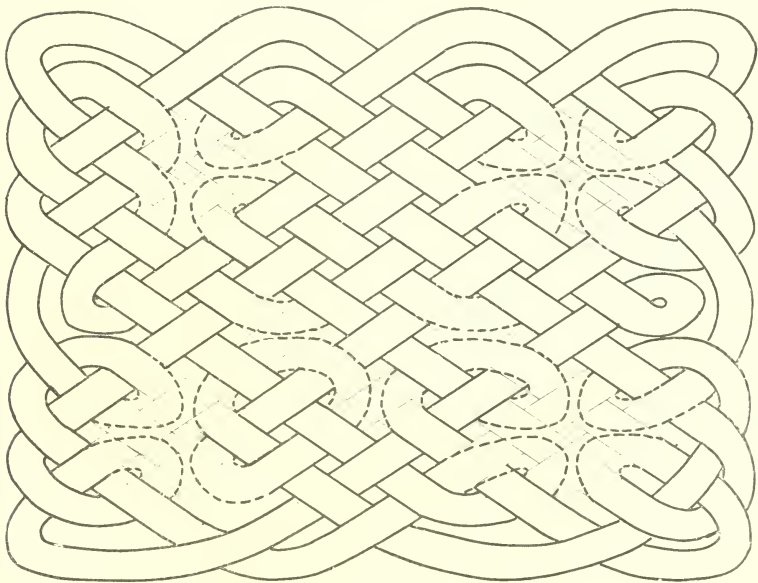


FIG. 4.



them an hour in which to get these few lines into their relative positions, and if they do not, like Wyatt, break down in despair, I shall say that they are exceptionally clever copyists.

And yet, when once you have grasped the principle, it is easy and simple, as I am about to show you; for I will trace before your eyes the exact process by which the artist, between one and two thousand years ago, built up this beautiful pattern; and I do your intelligence the credit to believe that you will then be convinced, not only that this was the process used, but that by no other possible process could he have arrived at the same result.

To explain the process in a few words. The artist first covers the space to be dealt with with lines crossing one another and woven in and out like basket-work. He then proceeds to join all the ends, two-and-two together; and finally he obliterates crossings here and there, joining the ends thereby set free in a manner differing from that which they originally followed. Anyone can join the ends, anyone can obliterate crossings, but the excellence of the patterns consists in the skill with which these processes are carried out, and herein lies the art.

I will now draw your attention to fig. 2, in which you have the plain basket-work that formed the foundation of this pattern. In fig. 3 are shown by dotted lines the manner in which the artist joined the ends. We have then fig. 4, which is a tracing from fig. 3, except that the crossings to be obliterated are shown by faint lines, while the subsequent joinings are shown by dotted ones. If you now compare this with fig. 1 you will see that you have in it the complete pattern. Every knot, every winding is there, and it is all one ribbon. All that the artist has now to do is, what I may call, to soften the asperities, to round a few corners, to bring this line a little nearer and push that a little further off, as his eye suggests, and his work is finished.

In the second series of figures we have a pattern differing from the first in several respects. In the first place, while the former was intended to fill a square or oblong, the latter was designed for a circular space. Secondly, the oblong pattern is built up on a foundation of straight lines only, while in that for the circular one there is not a single straight line. It consists of two concentric circles and four ovals. Again, in the oblong the greater part of the original foundation remains when the design is finished, but in the circle it has been so much obliterated that it is not easy to trace the connexion between figs. 5 and 8. Still, if you have followed me so far you will have seen that without fig. 5 it would have been impossible to have

reached fig. 8. Lastly, whereas the oblong pattern is over a thousand years old, the circular one has been designed within a few weeks for your special delectation.

Anyone comparing the two will be inclined to quote Scripture, and to say that the old is better. My object in introducing the other has been to show you that curved lines can be used as a foundation just as readily and as well as straight ones. Some of the most effective patterns that I know have been formed by the interweaving of circles and straight lines together.

The ribbon work at the top of the two side-lights in the east window just erected in Kildare Cathedral were designed by an English lady, to whom I read the substance of this Paper, and who took up the art with equal enthusiasm and skill. A cushion which is on the table, and which Mrs. Cooke Trench subsequently worked with a single piece of ribbon,  $28\frac{1}{2}$  feet long, is also from her design.

In speaking exclusively of the endless ribbon, it must not be supposed that I give it any undue preference over other and still more beautiful forms. I have merely sought to show how one very curious, beautiful, and characteristic kind of decoration was produced, and to render simple and easy that which without explanation looks like an insoluble puzzle.

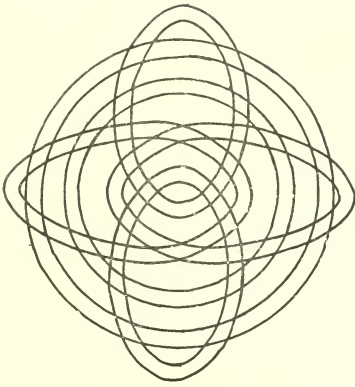


FIG. 5.

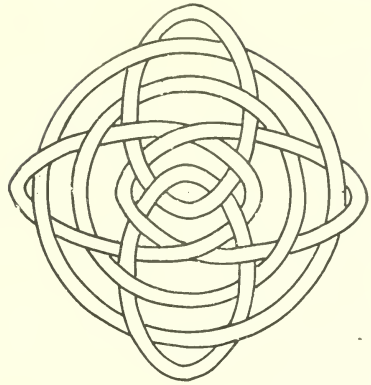


FIG. 6.

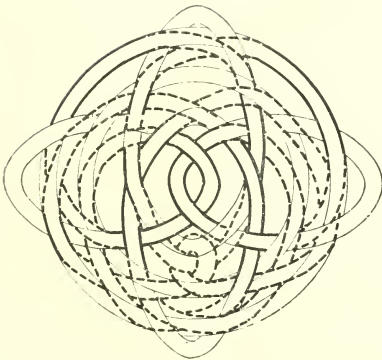


FIG. 7.



FIG. 8.



*THE FITZGERALDS OF LACKAGH.*

BY LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

**L**ACKAGH lies four miles to the west of Kildare, in the barony of West Offaly. A Protestant church now stands on the site of the former ancient chapel, surrounded by a burial ground, which, however, contains no monuments of any great interest. On the east side is a walled enclosure said to have belonged to the FitzGerald, but those of Lackagh used a family vault in St. Bridget's Cathedral of Kildare.

In a field outside the bounds of this burial ground, and to the south-west of it, is a small portion of a thick wall which is all that now remains above ground of the castle of Lackagh, formerly a Geraldine stronghold. This seems to have been the south-east corner of the castle. Close to the ditch alongside it are to be seen the foundations of the north-eastern end, having an arched vault leading a short way northwards, but the passage is filled up with loose stones. Some say this underground passage led to the old chapel, and others that it goes to a chambered "moat" which is situated about 300 yards off to the south-west.

Of the history of this castle next to nothing is known. James Touchet, Earl of Castlehaven, in his "Memoirs" (a small work which was republished in Dublin in 1815), gives a short account of its capture by him in 1643. He was then in command of a force of the Confederate Catholics. After describing the taking of Dollardstown and Tully Castles (both in the Co. Kildare), he goes on to say :—

"I then encamped on the heath called the Curragh of Kildare from whence I summoned all the castles thereabouts, and had them yielded; only whilst I was thus encamped Colonel Chidly Coote, Governor of Lacagh, came to me, and though he had nothing to secure his return, yet, on conditions I let him go; and after appearing before his place, had it according to our agreement. This done I repassed the Barrow to Minstereven and marched into Leix."

Another account of this transaction is given in Vol. I. of Gilbert's "Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland, 1641-1652," in which is published a MS. called "The Aphorismical Discovery," by an unknown Royalist. In the following extract from it I have not adhered to its peculiar and confusing spelling:—

"Dullarstown thus taken was left in Captain Gerald FitzGerald's custody (he was nicknamed 'chron' or the swarthy), and the army marched to Kildare, where encamping, his lordship (*i.e.* Castlehaven) did send summons unto Tully, Kildare Castle, Walterstowne, Munistereven, Legkagh, Elistowne, Grangfonshoord (now Punchersgrange), and Rathbride, all of which yielded upon quarter of their lives and arms. Sidley Coote, then Governor of Legkagh, went somewhat late a scouting, and so met with the Irish Scouts, was taken prisoner, and carried in that nature to his Lordship, who made very much of him, without guard or bail was with him all night in serious and private conference all the while, and next morning was dismissed alone to his garrison. The Castle was surrendered, and the Earl by no means would leave the same in the true owner's hands, who was Morgine FitzGerald, relict of Kedagh Geoghegan, unless she paid him one hundred pounds in money and two hundred barrells of wheat; but descending unto a certainty of seven score and ten barrells of wheat, and twenty pounds in money, and no farthing less, entering security for payment thereof, she with much ado got possession of her own Castle. The enemy was permitted to carry away, or turn to his own use, all the household stuff thereof, which was thought very strange by all well affected, that this widow Geoghegan was so rigorously dealt with, as none other in the county was so abused; and all this was thought to proceed only in regard of her late husband's surname, as being one of the ancient Irish whom he abhors as the Devil does the Cross."

Any further historical reference to this castle I have been unable to discover.

The meaning of the name Lackagh is "a stony place." Seward in his "Topographia Hibernica," says very little about it:—

"Lackagh," he writes, "is a Rectory in the diocese of Kildare. Here is an ancient burial-ground, with the ruins of a church and a castle. The latter, according to tradition, was built by a woman of the family of FitzGerald; it was much injured by the assaults of Cromwell, and afterwards suffered by fire. Near it is a Moat or Rath, which appears to have been surrounded by a ditch. Here is the burial-place of the family of Rice, whose ancient seat of Mount-Rice, once an elegant situation, lies at a small distance from these ruins. This place gives title of Baron to the family of Fielding, now Earl of Desmond."

The Earldom of Desmond (or South Munster) was an old FitzGerald title created in 1329. James FitzGerald the 17th Earl, known as the Sugaun Earl, or Earl of Straw, was the last







of his line, and at his death in 1608, the title became extinct. It was twice revived, and given to Englishmen :—

1. To Richard Preston, Lord Dingwall, who was created Earl of Desmond in 1622, and died without issue in 1628.
2. To George, Lord Fielding of Lecaghe, 1628, whose descendant, the Earl of Denbigh, still bears it as a minor title.

The family of Rice referred to by Seward were of Welsh descent. The first of the name in Ireland was Stephen Rice, who came over as an undertaker in the province of Munster in Elizabeth's reign. A descendant of his bought some of the Lackagh property (forfeited by the FitzGerald's who were implicated in the 1641 rebellion); hence their appearance in this neighbourhood. For an account of this family *vide* Vol. III., p. 203, of Archdall's Edition of "Lodge's Peerage."

Holinshed, the historian, in his "Chronicles of Ireland," gives a long and curious account of how this part\* of the Co. Kildare became the property of the FitzGerald's Earls of Kildare, previous to which it belonged to the DeVescis. The pith of his account is that, about the year 1293, John FitzGerald, 6th Baron of Offaly, afterwards 1st Earl of Kildare, was at variance with William de Vescei, Lord of Kildare, a baron so much esteemed by King Edward I. that he made him Lord Justice of Ireland. The quarrel seems to have been caused by the contiguity of their estates in this part of the county; and each accused the other of corruption and treason. This at last reached the King's ears, and accordingly he ordered both of them into his presence in England, where they continued making accusations against one another. At last the Baron of Offaly proposed that they should cease their wordy contest and decide their quarrel by a public combat. This delighted the audience; DeVesci accepted the challenge, and the King himself fixed the day for it. However, before the appointed time arrived, it was discovered that DeVesci had gone to France on urgent private affairs, upon hearing which the King declared the Baron of Offaly innocent, and added, "Albeit DeVesci hath conveyed his person into France, yet he hath left his lands behind him in Ireland," and so granted them to the baron.

The Lackagh branch of the FitzGerald's have, I believe, been long extinct in the male line. They were descended from

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\* Which extended from Rathangan to Kildare, roughly speaking.

Thomas FitzGerald, 7th Earl of Kildare, who succeeded his father Shaun Cam (*i.e.* John the hump-backed) to the Earldom in 1427.

Thomas, the 7th Earl, married Lady Joan FitzGerald, second daughter of James, the 7th Earl of Desmond. It is very probable that the effigies on the St. Werburgh Church tomb, which were illustrated in a back number of our *Journal*, represent these two. Thomas, the 7th Earl, died in 1478, leaving issue four sons and two daughters; the second son was Sir Thomas of Lackagh.

*Sir Thomas FitzGerald of Lackagh*, being the first of the family mentioned as residing at that place, was probably the builder of the castle, the remains of which have already been described. In 1484 he was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland for life. This office he threw up three years later for the following reason, which in the end resulted in his death:—

In the year 1486, Edward, Earl of Warwick, son of George Duke of Clarence, the last male Plantagenet, was a prisoner in the Tower of London. Early in this year a report was spread that he had made his escape, and in the following year Lambert Simnel, who represented himself to be the young Prince, landed in Dublin with several English noblemen, together with a force of 2000 Germans sent by the Duchess of Burgundy, sister of King Edward IV. Gerald, the 8th Earl of Kildare, Sir Thomas's eldest brother, then Lord Deputy, was deceived, and at once acknowledged him as the real heir to the throne. His example was followed by almost the whole of the gentry of the Pale, "or English land." Simnel was proclaimed king by the title of Edward VI., and on Whit Sunday was taken to Christ Church Cathedral in great state, where the ceremony of coronation was performed, a crown being borrowed from the statue of the Blessed Virgin in the neighbouring Church of St. Marie del Dam for the occasion. Simnel was then carried from the Cathedral to the Castle on the shoulders of a gigantic Meath knight, known as "Great Darcy of Platten." An invasion of England was now resolved on. A large force of Irish and Anglo-Irish was raised by the Earl of Kildare; these, with the Germans, all under the command of the Earl of Lincoln, set sail from Dublin in June, 1487. Sir Thomas, in order to accompany them, resigned the Chancellorship. The invading force landed at Foudrey in Lancashire, and eventually came into collision with King Henry's army at Stoke in Nottinghamshire. The result of the battle was the utter defeat of the Simnel army with great slaughter. Among the slain lay the body of Sir Thomas of Lackagh.

So great was the power of the Earl of Kildare in Ireland, that the King, after having been implored his pardon, thought it advisable not only to forgive him, but actually to retain him as Lord Justice of Ireland, and as such the Earl returned to that country.

Sir Thomas had married Elizabeth, a daughter of Robert Preston, 1st Viscount Gormanston, by whom he had four sons and two daughters, his eldest son being Sir Maurice.

*Sir Maurice Fitz Gerald's* wife was Ann Eustace (according to Archdall), who came of an ancient family that some say was a branch of the great Power sept, as the war-cry, or slogan, of the two families is the same:—"Poeragh-a-boo," that is, "the Powers for ever"; the crest, too, of the two families is identical:—"A buckshead cabossed, between the horns a cross calvary," which further bears out the above supposition.

In connection with this Sir Maurice, Holinshed relates the following adventure:—

"Not farre from Moolleaghmast, within a mile of Castledermot, or Thristledermot, is there a place marked with two hillocks, which is named 'the Geraldine, his throw or cast,' the length of which in verie deed is wonderfull. The occasion proceeded of this:—One of the Geraldines, who was ancestor to those that now are lords of Lackath, predeed an enemy of his. The Erle of Kildare having intelligence thereof, suppressing affection of kindred and moved by zeal of justice, pursued him with a great troope of horsemen, as the other was bringing of the prede homeward. The Geraldine having notice given him that the Erle was in hot pursuite, and therefore being warned by a messenger to lie him with all speed possible: the gentleman being nettled that his kinsman should seem to rescue the prede of his deadlie foe: and he was in such fretting wise, frieing in his grease, he brake out in these cholericke words:—'And doth my cousine Kildare pursue me indeed, now in good faith, whereas he seemeth to be a suppressor of his kindred and an upholder of my mortal enemy, I would wish him no more harm than that this dart were as far in his bodie as it shall stick forth-with in the ground.' And therewithall giving the spurres to his horse, he hurled his dart so farre as he was abashed with the length thereof, as well his companie as his posteritie. The Geraldine was not verie farre from thence, when the Earl with his band made hotfoot after, and dogging still the tracke of the predours, he came to the place where the dart was hurled, where one pickthanke or other let the Erle to understande of the Geraldine his wild speeches there delivered. And to inhance the heinousness of the offence he showed how farre he hurled his dart when he wished it to be pitched in his lordship his bodie. The Erle astonished at the length thereof said:—'Now in good sooth, my Cousin in behaving himself so courageously is worthie to have the prede shot free; and for my part I purpose not so much to stomach his cholericke wish, as to embrace his valiant prowess,' and therewithal commanded the retreat to be blowne, and reculed back."

On the townland of Ballyvass, which lies low as a rule, there are two natural hillocks which seem to correspond exactly

with Hollinshed's description of them, being, as the crow flies, two statute miles from Castledermot in the Mullaghmast direction; they are locally called Kenny's Moats, from a small farmer on whose land they were; one of them is now used as a gravel-pit; the distance between them is about 10 Irish perches. The Geraldine in question could be none other than Sir Maurice, so as to be a cousin of the Earl of Kildare.

In the year 1519, Sir Maurice was appointed Lord Deputy of Ireland, by his cousin Garrett "Oge" (*i.e.* the younger), 9th Earl of Kildare, when the latter had to resign that office, previous to proceeding to England. He only held the Lord

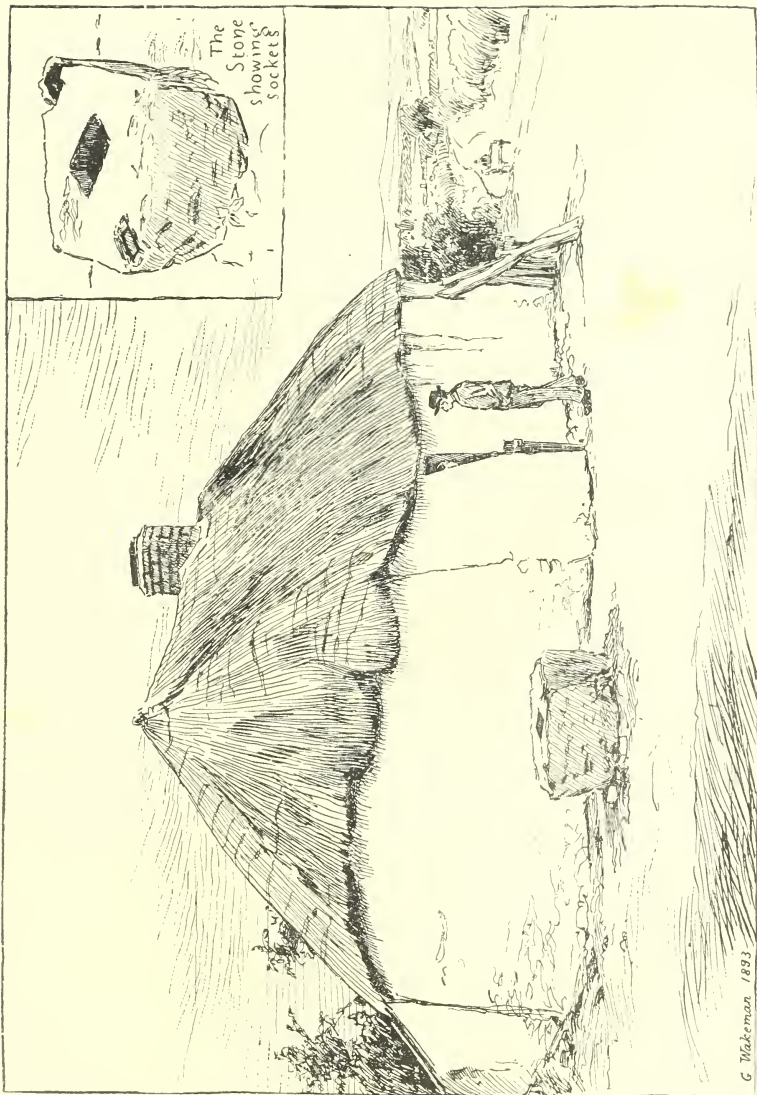


A PORTION OF THE SHAFT OF THE CROSS ERECTED AT CROSS-MORRIS  
(showing front), now preserved at Carton.

Deputyship for about a year, as in 1520, he died a violent death at the hands of the O'More's. This event is thus recorded in the "Annals of the Four Masters":—

"Maurice, the son of Thomas, the son of the Earl (of Kildare), the choice of the English family of the Geraldines, was slain by Conn, the son of Melaglin O'More, as were many others along with him."

The spot where this affray took place is about a mile from the Castle of Lackagh, in the Kildare direction, and on the townland of Cross-Morris, which derives its name from a stone way-side cross, erected to Sir Maurice's memory probably on the spot where his body was picked up. The base of this cross

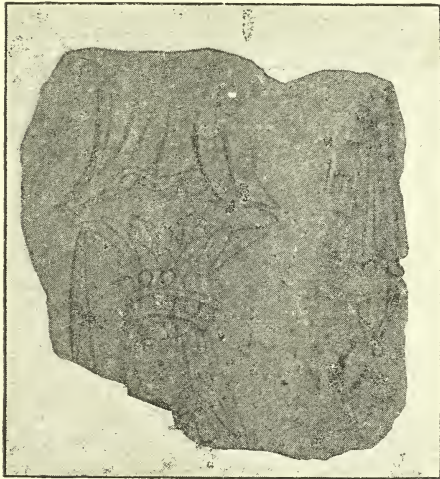


THE "WART STONE," AT CROSS-MORRIS, NEAR LACKAGH  
(being the base of Cross erected to the memory of Sir Maurice FitzGerald in 1520).





still stands by the roadside near the gable end of a thatched cabin, occupied by a man named Martin M'Cabe. It is locally known as the "wart-stone," from cures wrought by the water which lodges in the socket that held the shaft of the cross. The wart-stone is of limestone, diamond-shaped, and without ornament, in height it measures 21 inches, and from opposite point to point, 50 inches one way by 40 inches the other. In the centre of this block is an oblong socket 9 inches by 4, and 6 inches deep; on either side of it, in the farther apart angles is a smaller socket, as if for props to the shaft of the cross.



A PORTION OF THE SHAFT OF THE CROSS ERECTED AT CROSS-MORRIS  
(showing back), now preserved at Carton.

The remainder of the cross is lost, except one small piece of the shaft, which some years ago was seen built into the coign of Martin M'Cabe's cabin by Dr. Comerford, our Vice-President, who had it taken out and sent to the Duke of Leinster at Carton for preservation, where it now is. Other portions are said to have been built into the foundations of the cabin, which is very likely, though they are not visible. Judging by the piece at Carton, the cross must have been exceptionally fine, as it is richly carved in relief on all sides with gracefully draped figures representing female saints; it is about a foot in length, in breadth 13 inches, and in depth 7 inches.

Sir Maurice's son and heir was named Thomas. Of *this Thomas Fitz Gerald*, I know nothing, except that, according to Archdall's "Lodge," he married Eleanor Delahide, a Meath family, whose chief residence was Moyglare Castle, on the borders of the Co. Kildare, about two Irish miles to the North of Maynooth; he had two sons, the eldest of whom was Sir Maurice.

From an unpublished Exchequer Inquisition of the county of Kildare, this Thomas Fitz Gerald's death is given as having taken place on the 4th August, Henry VIII. 25<sup>o</sup> (*i. e.* 1533), just about a year before the breaking out of the rebellion of his kinsman and namesake, "Silken Thomas," which ended so disastrously to those concerned in it.

The possessions of the Lackagh Fitz Gerald's at this period consisted of:—

1. *The Manor of Lackagh* (containing the townlands of Ballyconnock, Ballykilly, Coolsuck in Clonkeyne, Ballyneclough, Mullaghrome, Sindelly, Sraghmahowney, Kilmurry, and Clandon.

2. *The Manor of Norraghbegg* (Co. Kildare), containing the townlands of Wassiston, *alias* Ballyvass, Hobardeston, Rathskolbyn, and Tallonston.

3. *The Manor of Ballyfeighan* (Co. Meath), containing the townlands of Glin, *alias* Killglin, Pearston, Paddenston, Ballycowell, Thomaston, Killrowry, and Dromen.

Thomas Fitz Gerald was probably buried in the Kildare Cathedral, as his eldest son, in his will, orders his body to be "buried in the cathedral church of Kildare with the corps of my ancestors"; his eldest son was only seven years of age at the time he died (*i. e.* in 1533).

*Sir Maurice Fitz Gerald*, in the year 1552 (as we learn from Morrin's "Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls of Ireland," received a grant from King Edward VI. of the bridge of "Bealyne" in O'Dempsey's Country, the boat belonging to it, besides all the lands, tenements, and rents, appertaining thereunto of the yearly value of £7 2s. sterling, rent free, on condition that he would build a castle at one end of the bridge and a tower at the other for its protection and maintenance. The O'Dempsey's Country, which at this time was a sub-territory of the native Irish Offaly district, was called Clan-

malier,\* and it was not until the following reign of Queen Mary, that these and other territories were sufficiently subjugated to convert them into the "shires," now known as the King's and Queen's Counties. It will be understood from this that the keeping and protection of a ford or bridge across a broad river like the Barrow in those times, was a post of great importance and responsibility, as it was by these that the native sept on the borders attempted their hostile incursions into the English Pale. There are now no traces of the bridge, nor of the fortifications at Belin (as it is now written on the maps), though the ford there is still used; the latter is situated about half way between Monasterevan and Dunrally bridge further down the river towards Athy.

In the year 1556 Sir Maurice was made a Justice of the Peace for the Co. Kildare and its marches; part of his duty was, at certain times, in conjunction with his brother magistrates to muster the inhabitants of his district, and see that they attended fully equipped with arms and horses according to the regulations laid down for the protection of the Pale. In 1562 he was Sheriff of the County. His wife was Margaret, only daughter of Thomas, the 3rd son of Pierce Butler, 8th Earl of Ormond, which latter had to wife Margaret, the second daughter of Garrett "More" FitzGerald, 8th Earl of Kildare, and after whom Sir Maurice's wife was probably christened. Their children consisted of four sons and four daughters, the eldest son was named Thomas; the next was James FitzGerald, who married a sister of Barnaby Doyne, of Mylicke, in the Queen's County, and from them came the Kilrush (Co. Kildare) branch of the FitzGerald, a family now extinct. This same Kilrush, nearly two hundred years later, was granted to Lord Edward FitzGerald, of '98 fame, by his father the 1st Duke of Leinster, and was sold by his son, Captain Edward FitzGerald, who died in 1863, and lies in the vault of Maynooth Church. Of Sir Maurice's daughters the younger was named Mary, and she it was, as far as I can judge, who married Sir Terence O'Dempsey, created in 1631 Viscount Clanmalier; Burke in his "Extinct Peerage" says, that he married a daughter of the FitzGerald of Lackagh, as his first wife, by whom he had a son and a daughter, and that she died on the 4th of January, 1614.

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\* The district of Clanmalier extended on both sides of the Barrow, and contained the present barony of Upper Philipstown, in the King's County, and that of Portnahinch, in the Queen's County.

In his will, which exists in the Record Office, Dublin, Sir Maurice mentions his sons, "Kedaghe and Calughe O'More;" they were, I suspect stepsons, as his first wife had been previously married to Rory O'Moore of Leix (father of the famous Rory Oge, who wreaked such vengeance on the English for their treacherous massacre of so many of his sept in the rath of Mullaghmast, on New Year's Day, 1577). He also mentions his brother John, about whom there is a funeral entry in Ulster's Office, to the following effect:—

"John Fitzgerald of the Noraghbeg, in the Countie of Kildare, deceased the 11 April 1620; he had to wife Elonor d<sup>r</sup> of Oliver Tallon of Boylaugh, in the Countie of Catherlough, by whom he had issue Elinor, Mary, Ellen, and Elizabeth."

This John FitzGerald's will is also in the Record Office; he was buried at Castledermot, which is 1½ miles from Narraghbeg), where there are the broken portions of an inscribed and sculptured cross-shaft erected to his memory.

Sir Maurice's death took place on the 26th December, 1575. He was buried in St. Bridget's Cathedral at Kildare, and a handsome tomb was raised to his memory by his widow, the sculpturing of which was executed by Walter Brennagh (the Irish form of the name Walsh) as is recorded on the stone.

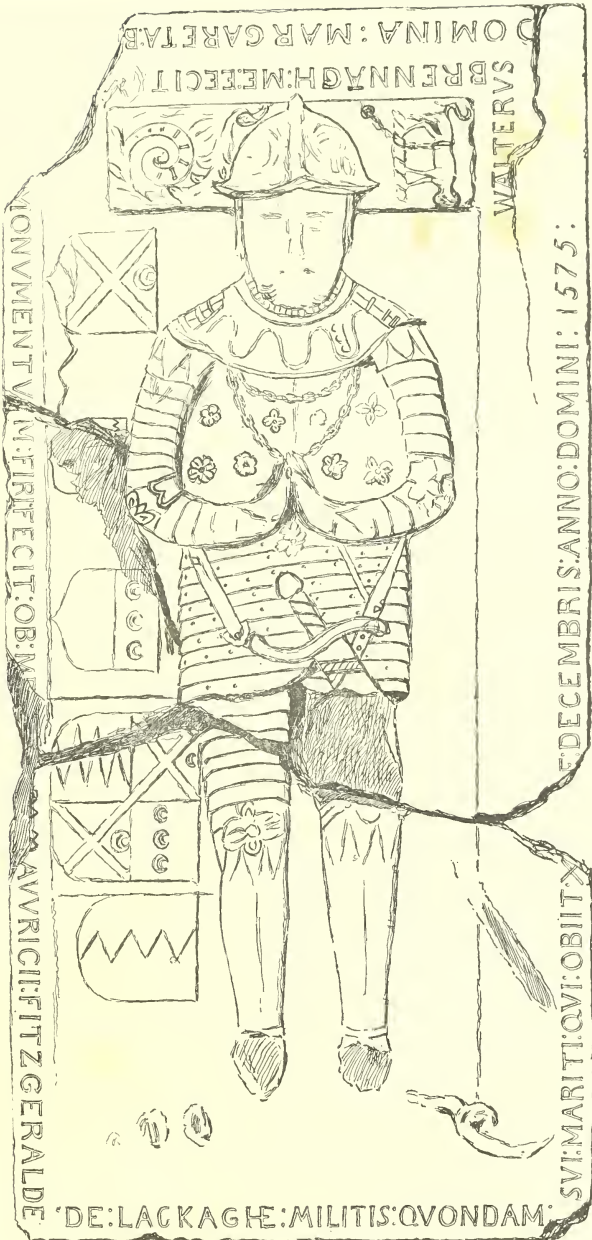
This tomb took the form of what is known as an altar or box tomb, but little now remains of it except the lid, bearing a life-size effigy of Sir Maurice in armour. Of the sides which had figures of the saints carved on them there is now hardly a vestige left. An incised inscription runs round the edge of the lid-stone. It is chipped away in one or two places, but when perfect read as follows:—

DOMINA : MARGARETA : BVTLER : HOC : MONYMENTVM : FIERI : FECIT :  
 OB : MEMORIAM : MAVRICII : FITZGERALDE : DE : LACKAGH-E : MILITIS :  
 QVONDAM : SVI : MARITI : QVI : OBIIT : XXVI : DIE : DECEMBRIS : ANNO :  
 DOMINI : 1575 : WALTERVS : BRENNAGH : ME : FECIT \*

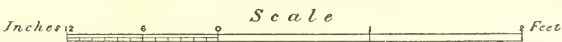
The slab is lying in a damaged state, being broken into three pieces. As to the effigy—a large piece of the left thigh,

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\* Of the date of the day of the month in the inscription only the first X remains, but an unpublished Exchequer Inquisition of the King's County gives the date of death on the 26th of December, 1575; it was taken at Philipstown on the 21st August, 1578.



G. H. Wakeman 1893



THE LID OF THE FITZGERALD OF LACKAGH ALTAR-TOMB,  
IN ST. BRIDGET'S CATHEDRAL, KILDARE.



the sword-scabbar, the two feet, and the animal they rested on are broken off and lost. It is possible that when the cathedral was battered down during the rebellion of 1641 this tomb may have suffered. The material is limestone, and the slab measures 8 feet 2 inches in length by 3 feet 10 inches in breadth. Before the restoration of the cathedral, which commenced in 1875, this effigy and another of an unknown (but apparently very early) bishop, were built into the interior of the south wall below the triple lancet window of the south transept.

As is shown in the drawing opposite, the plate-armour is richly embossed with ornaments resembling flower heads. From underneath the "gorget" hangs a chain to which was attached a crucifix or reliquary which is clasped between the hands. The head rests on a curved oblong block, decorated on the right side of the head with a foliage device, and on the other is the family crest—a monkey environed about the middle with a collar and chain.\*

The face of the effigy is much damaged, but there are traces left showing that it was unshaven. On tombs of this kind it is usual for the feet to rest on a dog, and when a knight's wife is added, her feet are placed on a cushion. The dog denoted fidelity. In this case the tail of an animal is all that remains.

On the right hand side of the knight is a row of five shields varying in size, all bearing coats of arms:—

The first shield bears the Fitzgerald arms:—Argent, a saltire gules; with the crescent for difference (denoting a younger branch).

The second shield is all but obliterated owing to a break in the stone; but judging from a small portion still visible in the (heraldic) right top corner, it bore the Butler coat of arms:—Quarterly, 1st and 4th, or a chief indented azure; 2nd and 3rd, gules, three covered cups or.

The third bears the family arms of the Prestons, Viscounts of Gormanstown, viz. or, on a chief sable, three crescents argent.

The fourth shield is much larger than the others, and bears Quarterly—1st and 4th, the Fitzgerald arms; 2nd, the Preston arms; and 3rd, a coat that is on the 5th shield given below.

The fifth, heraldically speaking, is "per pale indented" (or if only three points are intended—"per pale dancettée").

About the only Irish family with a coat resembling this one is that of Bermingham, whose arms are "per pale indented or, and gules." There was a family of this name settled at Dunfert, in the north-west of the Co. Kildare, who bore the title of Barons of Carbury; and I am inclined to think that Sir Maurice's mother was a member of this family, and not a

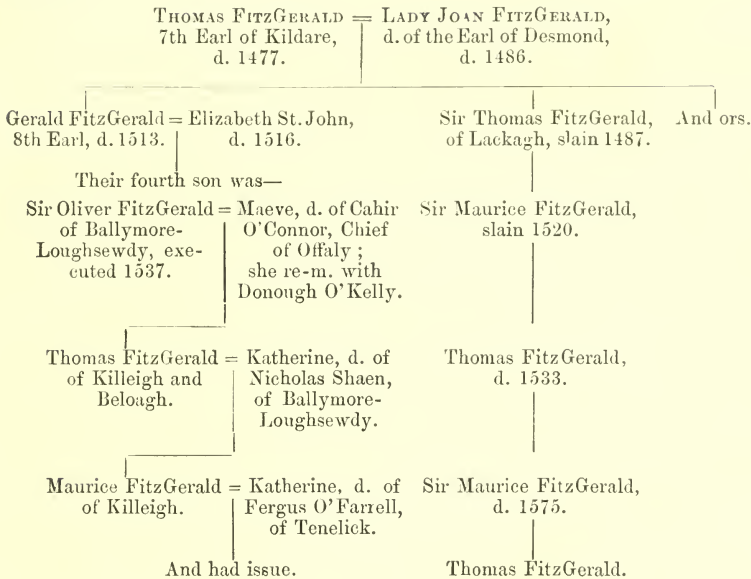
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\* For the origin of this crest see Father Carroll's Paper on Athy and Woodstock Castle, page 104 of the JOURNAL.





ship between the two houses at the period that the quarrel began :—



Thomas's petition, the evidence on the inquiry, and other steps taken in this lawsuit are to be found at length in Morrin's Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls, and the Calendar of State Papers, Ireland. His death took place before it was ended, but it was continued by his son Maurice.

Thomas's wife is given by Archdall as Elizabeth, daughter of Mark Barnewall, of Dunbroe, Co. Dublin. In a Chancery Inquisition of the Co. Meath, Thomas's death is given on the 20th June, 1611, at which time his son Maurice was aged thirty, and married.

Of this *Maurice Fitz Gerald* very little is known.

In a Chancery Inquisition of the King's County it is stated that Queen Elizabeth had in her possession the castle, messuages, lands, and tenements of Calaghton in the King's County, which, by letters patent, dated the 13th June, 1562, she granted to Sir Maurice Fitz Gerald of Lackagh, on condition that neither he nor his heirs should alienate any portion of the premises without leave of the Crown. On Sir Maurice's death in 1575, these premises descended to his son and heir Thomas, on whose death in 1611, they passed to his son and heir Maurice, the one in question. Now, Maurice, by a deed dated 14th September,

1617, leased the premises to Gerald St. Michael of Rheban without permission, and consequently he did not adhere to the conditions, and so the premises of Calaghton reverted to the Crown.

In 1635 he made a nuncupative or word of mouth will which was proved in 1637. In it he is described as of Ballyfeaghan, his Co. Meath manor. He had six sons and five daughters; his eldest son was named Thomas, but at the time of his death his third son James was the eldest surviving.

From about the middle of the fifteenth century to about the middle of the seventeenth, that is to say for close on 200 years, an alternate Thomas and Maurice had succeeded without a break to the Lackagh possessions.

Maurice died on the 13th November, 1637, at Ballyfeaghan, and was buried in the Cathedral Church of Kildare, at which time James his successor was twenty-six years of age. His wife was Ellen, the youngest daughter of James Butler, 11th Baron of Dunboyne.

*James Fitz Gerald* took part in the rebellion of 1641, and on the 23rd October in that year he was indicted for high treason and his property confiscated to the Crown. The rebellion in the first instance broke out in the North of Ireland, and spread rapidly into the other three provinces. It was caused by discontent brought about by the wholesale confiscation of property belonging to the native Irish and its division among hostile strangers, and also to a very great degree by the growing power of the Puritans whose aim was the suppression of the Roman Catholic religion. Consequently the old Anglo-Irish families joined their co-religionists in the struggle for liberty, and if internal dissensions and jealousies had not later on caused a split in the Confederate ranks the result might not have been so disastrous to Ireland.\*

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\* Gilbert, in the Appendix to his "History of the Confederation and War in Ireland," publishes from a MS. in the British Museum a list of persons outlawed at this time for high-treason; from this list I have selected the names of the heads of the principal FitzGerald families in the county Kildare alone, whose properties were confiscated for participation in this rebellion:—

Maurice	FitzGerald	of Allen.
Pierce	"	" Ballyshannon.
William	"	" Blackhall.
Gerald	"	" Brownstown.
Gerald	"	" Castleroe.
William	"	" Dunore.
Edward	"	" Glassealy.
James	"	" Kilrush.
James	"	" Lackagh.
John	"	" Mullaghmoynes.
Thomas	"	" Timahoe.

There are many other individuals of the sept given, which are not noticed here.

After the rebellion James tried to recover his forfeited estates, and for that purpose petitioned the Commissioners, with the result that on the 28th November, 1668, he recovered a portion of them. The following extract from the Book of Forfeitures, a MS. in the Record Office, Dublin, shows among whom his property in the Co. Kildare was divided:—

Old Proprietor.	Townland.	Acreage.	New Proprietor.	To whom regranted.
James FitzGerald, “ Irish Papist.”	Narraghbeg, Ballynearrick, Tallonstown,	600	Duke of York, afterwards James II.	John Asgill.
	Rathskulbin, Ballyvasse, Ballyhobbert,	122 420 373	Duke of York,	John Asgill.
	Ballykelly, Coolseskin,	305 840		
	Lackagh,	100	Duke of York, ..... James FitzGerald.	S <sup>r</sup> Stephen Rice.
		2000		

James made his will on the 1st October, 1670, the year in which he died; it was proved on the 17th January, 1671. In it he mentions his wife, Cisly Fitz Gerald, and as one of his executors is his brother-in-law, Gerald Fitz Gerald, of Feighcullen, she was probably the latter's sister. Mention, too, is made in the will of two sons and a daughter, the eldest son being named Maurice. These children are the last of the race of whom I have been able to discover traces.

James Fitz Gerald, in accordance with the wish expressed in his will, was buried in his “predecessors' tomb at Kildare.”

In a MS. volume in the Record Office, Dublin, called “The Book of General Orders” (marked  $\frac{A}{5}$ ), which extends from the year 1654 to 1655, there are a few orders in reference to a murder of two Government soldiers at Lackagh and its consequence, which, as far as I know, have never been printed in full, but which are alluded to by Prendergast in his “Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland” at p. 168. These orders are all (except one) initialled T. H. C. C., standing for Thomas Herbert, Clerk of the Council, by whom they were entered. The first of the orders in reference to Lackagh is given on p. 260. It, and those which follow it, are in these words:—

*Order touching the Murther committed at Leckey, County Kildare.*

“Whereas, by a Declaration bearing date 18 April last, it was declared (in order to prevent the many murthers, rapines, thefts, burnings, and spoils, that were commonly done and committed on the poor inhabitants of this nation), that watch and ward, hue and cry, should be duly kept and observed in all the provinces of Ireland according to law, and the many declarations formerly published to that purpose put in execution; and whereas, this board is informed that there hath been a barbarous murther lately committed in the County Kildare, upon Denis Brennan and Murtoogh Turner, Protestants (and persons lately in the service of the State and pay of the army), at the Castle of Leckey in the said county, to the great terror of the rest of the peaceable inhabitants of the County. It is ordered that Colonel John Hewson, Major Anthony Morgan, and Lieut.-Colonel Hewetson, or any two of them, do forthwith repair into the said place where the fact was done, and secure all the inhabitants thereof, and inform themselves by all due ways and means how the said murther was committed, and by whom, and that they do send for all such parties, and examine such witnesses as they shall think fit upon oath, touching the manner thereof, and how the said murtherers may be discovered and apprehended; and whether they have any abettors, harbourers, and countenancers, that are of their friends, kinsmen, or others, in the said town or county. And upon due enquiry into the whole matter of the fact, the said Col. Hewson, Major Morgan, and Lieut.-Colonel Hewetson, or any two of them, are to cause all the Irish inhabitants of the said town where the murther was committed, that are of the Popish religion, to be sent under safe guard into Waterford, to the end that they may be speedily transported to the Barbadoes, or some other of the Plantation Islands belonging to his Highness and the Commonwealth, in America. And that they also commit to the nearest gaol such others as they shall suspect to have been either Principles or Accessaries, or otherwise abettors to the murther aforesaid, to be kept in safe custody until they be delivered by due course of law, they are also to examine witnesses upon oath concerning the same, and to bind them over by recognizance to prosecute on behalf of his Highness and the Commonwealth; and that in the mean time the said Colonel Hewson, Major Morgan, and Lieut.-Colonel Hewetson, or any two of them, cause their respective estates to be inventoried and secured. And to return an account of their proceedings herein unto this Board with all convenient speed.

“Dated at the Castle of Dublin, this 22<sup>nd</sup> of October, 1655.  
T. H. C. C.”

(Page 261) *William Basill, Esq., to prepare Examinations touching the Murther in the County Kildare.*

“Ordered that William Basill, Esq., Attorney General in behalf of his Highness and Commonwealth, do peruse the Examinations taken by Col. John Hewson and Major Morgan, concerning the late murther committed upon the Protestant inhabitants of Lekey, in the county Kildare, and to certify to this Board the names of such of them as he conceives guilty or accessories to the said murthers, and against whom proceedings may be had and made for the same, according to law.

“Dublin Castle, 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1655. T. H. C. C.”

(Page 273) *Allowance of 4d. per diem to the Prisoners for the Murther at Legkaigh, in the County Kildare.*

“Ordered that Lieut. Col. Hewetson, and the Under Sheriff for the County of Kildare, do take care that an allowance, not exceeding Four pence per diem, be given unto the respective Prisoners that were lately committed for the murther of the Protestants that lived at Lekaigh, in the said County of Kildare for their subsistence, the said allowance to continue until further order.

“Dublin Castle, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1655. R. P. M. C. M. T.”

(Page 276) *Colonel Hewson, etc., to Examine the Prisoners touching the Murther, etc.*

“Ordered that Col. John Hewson, and Col. Henry Markham, taking in to their assistance such other Justice of the Peace of this County as the said Col. Hewson shall conceive fit, do forthwith meet together and take the examination of the Prisoners that are brought up to Dublin to be tried for the late Murther at Lekey, in the County of Kildare, as also the depositions of such witnesses as they think fit, and that can give any material Evidence in the behalf of the Commonwealth, and to return the same close sealed up unto this Board.

“Dated at Dublin Castle, the 6th of November, 1655. T. H. C. C.”

(Page 288) *Sentence of Quartering passed on the condemned for the Murther at Leccagh taken off.*

“Whereas Connor Birne, Teige Moran, James Beacon, and Tirlagh Dunn, were lately in the Court of Chief Place, before the Lord Justice, at the Four Courts in Dublin, attainted of treason, and for which they were indicted, arrayned, tried, and condemned, and by writ of execution of the said Court, bearing date the 20th of November instant; the Marshall of the said Four Courts,\* is to cause the body of the said Birne and Moran to be safely conveyed to the town of Leccagh in the County of Kildare, and from thence to be drawn upon a dray or hurdle unto the gallows or place of execution, near thereunto to be erected; And the said Beacon and Dunn to the place of execution near Dublin; and there to be hanged up by the neck, in the respective places aforesaid, and cast down unto the ground alive—(the next portion of this fearful and barbarous sentence is unfit for print)—and their heads cut off and the members of their bodies be disposed of as should be thought fit, as by writ of execution from the said Court doth now at large appear.

“And upon consideration had thereof, it is thought fit and ordered by the Board that that part of the sentence given for the quartering of the respective condemned persons above named, be and is hereby remitted and dispensed with. Whereof the respective sheriffs of the Counties of Kildare and Dublin, and the said Marshall of the said Four Courts are to take notice.

“Dublin Castle, 20th November, 1655. T. H. C. C.”

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\* Philip Peake.

(Page 295) *Marshall Peake to deliver the Prisoners to Captain Coleman.*

“Ordered that Philip Peake, Esq., Marshall of the Four Courts at Dublin, do forthwith, upon receipt hereof, deliver or cause to be delivered unto Captain Robert Coleman, commander of the “Wexford” frigate all such Popish Priests (other than such as are committed for Murther) as also the Prisoners brought out of the County Kildare, and committed to his custody for suspicion of being privy to the Murther lately done at the town of Lackagh in the said county (except the two that are condemned to be hanged for the same), together with the reputed wife of Donough O’Derrick, alias Blind Donough,\* in the custody of him the said Marshall to the end he the said Captain Coleman, may with the first opportunity of wind and weather, convey them with his ship and deliver them in safe custody to the Governor of Waterford, to be by him delivered unto Captain John Norris, Merchant there who is safely to keep the said Priests or other Prisoners abovesaid at his own charge, until he shall transport them forthwith for the Barbadoes, or the other Plantation island in America. And the said Marshall Peake is hereby further ordered to bring a perfect list of the said Priests or Persons, with all speed to the Clerk of the Council, the said Captain Norris having put in security for their safe transportation as aforesaid.

“Dublin Castle, the 27th of November, 1655. T. H. C. C.”

The next general order (p. 303) is dated the 4th December, 1655. It is a repetition of the one given above, except that it gives a list of the names of the Lackagh prisoners to be handed over to Captain Norris for transportation; they are as follows:—

James Tuit, priest.  
 Robert Keegan, priest.  
 Redmond Moore, priest.  
 John Tobin, priest.  
 Bryan Ruddery.  
 James Brennan.  
 John Carron.  
 Donnough Kelly.  
 Philip O’Connollan.  
 Morgan Ferron.  
 William Muloy.  
 Maurice Hennegat.  
 Henry ffz Garrett.  
 Morrice ffz Garrett.  
 Margery ffz Garrett.  
 Mary Grafton, wife to Henry  
 ffz Garrett.  
 Bridget ffz Garrett.  
 Daughter to Loughlin Kelly.  
 Connor Toole.

Marg<sup>t</sup> King.  
 Marg<sup>t</sup> Rely.  
 Marg<sup>t</sup> Dongan.  
 Katherine Brannan.  
 Giles Crevy.  
 Margaret Doolin.  
 Honora Doolin.  
 Dorothy Farrell.  
 Ellinor ffz Garrett  
 Honora ni Conlan.  
 Katherine Heylan.  
 Anne Keating.  
 Eliz<sup>th</sup> Keating.  
 Margery Crenyan.  
 Katherine Weighlan.  
 Owney Hoose.  
 Eliz<sup>th</sup> Morran.  
 Honora ni Gibbery.  
 Daniel O’Rourk.

\* In a General Order, dated at Wexford the 3rd of October, 1655, we find that Donough O’Derrick was a noted leader of Tories, or disaffected peasantry and discharged soldiery, for whose head, dead or alive, a reward of £30 was offered.

(Page 309) *The Sheriff of the County of Kildare to sell the goods of the Prisoners for the Murther at Lackagh.*

“ Upon consideration had of the petition of Margaret ffz Garrett, Henry ffz Garrett, and other Prisoners, committed to the Marshall of Dublin for the Murther at Lackagh in the County of Kildare, praying that their stock and goods then seized from them by the Commonwealth might be restored to them ; it is thought fit and ordered that the High Sheriff of the said County of Kildare do forthwith take care that the goods secured upon the apprehension of the late prisoners brought from Lackagh aforesaid to Dublin (and formerly belonging to any of them and ordered to be inventaried) be appraised and sold for the best advantage of the Commonwealth, and cause the proceeds thereof to be distributed as followeth, viz.—for the satisfaction of the Marshall for diet and fees, and for the fees of the Prisoners that were tried and acquitted by sentence of the Court, and due to the respective officers thereof, in all amounting to the sum of eight pounds. And that then fitting reparation (such as the council shall award) be thereout made and given unto the widows of the two murdered persons at Lackagh, and the remainder to be sent to the persons that are to be shipped from Passage or Waterford and transported to the Barbadoes, to be distributed among them according to right ; and in case there be cause of suspicion that any Estate, or part of Estate, belonging to the said persons is concealed, the said sheriff is to examine the same upon oath, and to take care and use all good ways and means for discovery and securing thereof, and putting the same to sale and disposure abovesaid ; and to certify his proceeding herein unto this Board.

“ Dublin Castle, 6th December, 1655. T. H. C. C.”

The Henry FitzGerald abovementioned was a brother of the James who was outlawed, his family seems to have consisted of his wife, Mary Grafton, his daughter Elinor FitzGerald, a son Maurice, together with his wife “ Bridget ffz Garrett, daughter to Loughlin Kelly,” and Henry’s sister-in-law Margery,\* the widow of his eldest brother Thomas, who, according to a Chancery Inquisition (I. Charles, No. 73), died without male issue in the lifetime of his father.

The result of the deaths of the two Government “ old soldiers,” was the hanging of four men and the transportation of thirty-nine men and women to a hell upon earth, many of them, too, probably as innocent of any knowledge of the crime as the Phillabeens on the Bog of Allen.

At this time the Commissioners for Ireland also transported to the West Indies, the Irish prisoners of war, the wives of the exiled Irish soldiery, their widows and orphans, besides anyone they could lay their hands on, who had no visible means of

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\* Can this be the “ Morgine FitzGerald, relict of Kedagh Geoghegan,” mentioned in the commencement of this Paper as having been so badly treated by the Earl of Castlehaven ?

livelihood owing to the confiscation of their properties. "How many girls of gentle birth must have been taken," says Pendergast in his book, "and hurried to the private prisons of the British sugar merchants for transportation, none can tell; but at last the evil became too shocking and notorious, particularly when these dealers in Irish flesh began to seize the daughters and children of the English themselves, and to force them on their slave ships, then indeed, the orders, at the end of four years were revoked."

Before closing these notes on Lackagh, there are two or three gentlemen in the Record Office, Dublin, whom I wish to thank for the trouble they took in assisting me in this and other researches—they are Mr. James Mills, Mr. Henry F. Berry, and Mr. M. J. M'Enery, who were untiring in the help they gave me in deciphering and translating bad Latin, and worse handwriting.





## ANCIENT NAAS.

BY THOMAS J. DE BURGH, D. L.

[Continued from page 201.]

### III.—THE CORPORATION OF NAAS.

**A** CORPORATION is an association of persons treated in law as if it were one person, and it must have a common seal.

Although its legal origin is ascribed to five sources—Common Law, Prescription, Act of Parliament, Charter, and Implication—these are all ultimately traceable to the authority of Acts of Parliament and Charters, which latter are of the nature of contract between King and Corporation.

Municipal Corporations are organizations for the self-government of towns. After 1171 many Anglo-Saxon boroughs were formed, and they either brought with them, or obtained, favourable municipal charters, the English settlement obviously depending on the advantages which the burgesses possessed over the native population outside.

William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke (and son-in-law of Strongbow), being Lord of Leinster (or his sons or co-heirs) in right of their lordship, erected almost all the corporate establishments in Kildare (Lynch).

#### FREEMEN.

Under the Norman kings they were deemed townsmen who had a settled residence in the town, who merchandized there, who were of the Hans or Guild, who were in lot and scot with the townsmen, and who used and enjoyed the liberties and free customs of the town. The titles to borough freedom by birth, apprenticeship, and marriage, all known to be of very remote

antiquity, seem to have been only so many modes of ascertaining the general conditions of established residence. The freeman's right of exclusive trading had some ground of justice when they who enjoyed it exclusively supported the local burdens. The ancient boroughs were far more free than those formed under James I.'s charters, under which, amongst other evils, the corrupt admission of non-resident freemen, in order to outvote the ancient freeholders in Parliamentary elections, brought in abuses which were matter of constant complaint for two centuries, and which no serious attempt was made to remedy until about 1840.

The freemen were the constituency of the corporation. Those were termed "potwallopers," who boiled their pot for six months in the Liberties, without really residing therein, in order to obtain the right to vote for Parliamentary elections. The sovereign of Naas called the meetings of the corporation in the Tholsell, the freemen elected the burgesses, whose number, generally about twenty-four, does not seem to have been limited, although many attempts were made towards the commencement of the eighteenth century to keep down the number to twelve, exclusive of the sovereign, of which twelve six were to be residents, and the remainder "gentlemen of fortune in the county." Burgesses of Parliament seem to have been elected from the list of burgesses by the sovereign, portreeves, and burgesses.

In 1664 there were a number of non-resident freemen. In 1673 several of these were ordered "to pay quarterage until they come to dwell," each also to pay 20s. for his freedom. Even residents had to pay for their freedom, or give so many days' labour, with security for performance. In 1686 a great disturbance arose, owing to the corporation having issued a decree that "Freemen not inhabiting in the borough do pay tolls and customs as foreigners and strangers." Whereupon the non-resident freemen combined and went to law with the sovereign, but were apparently beaten, for the jubilant resident freemen allowed the sovereign "£20 for his trouble, also three livery cloaks and hatts, and what he shall spend in treating the corporation."

In the same year the Lord Lieutenant had to intervene to compel the corporation to admit Roman Catholics to the offices of sovereign, portreeves, and burgesses, same as other persons in the corporation. The position of burgess seemed to be in much request, for in 1726 Thomas Burgh of Oldtown expended £225 3s. 2½*d.* on his election. I have all the items of this expenditure on the freemen of Naas. A vast number of coaches were hired at 18s. 6*d.* each per day, horses at 5s., coole tankards

were charged at 1s. 11*d.*, bottles of clarett at 1s. 8*d.* (one Mr. Alen having consumed three bottles of this claret, and 3*s.* worth of "eating" at Henry Owens' house, was accommodated with a "beddroom" without further charge; it is not surprising to note that his bill on the morrow of this dissipation was "milk water, 6*d.*"), bottles white wine at 1s. 4*d.*, pastyes 4*s.*, gees 2*s.*, fourteen lobsters and six crabs 24*s.*, legg of mutton and roots 2*s.* 6*d.*, plum puden 4*s.*, seven dozen of clarett £7, muggs, glases, and botels brouke 1s. 8*d.*, &c. &c.

In legal proceedings taken in 1756, it is recorded that from 1732 to 1756, and before that time, "the ancient and uninterrupted usage of the corporation was to admit all corn, toll, and custom free, belonging to freemen coming to be sold in the market of Naas, without questioning where the sd corn grew. But when corn is bought in the market for any person's use it pays toll and custom. The town of Naas has no baker residing in it, except some poor women, who do very little in the way of baking, and are not held to any assize by the magistrate. For such of the inhabitants (and they are the greatest part) as do not bake for themselves at common ovens, are supplied with bread from Dublin, or by one Thomas Reynolds, a baker, who has lately taken the flour mill at Johnstown."

Burgesses and freemen were liable to be disfranchised at the will of the assembly for crimes against the corporation.

In 1669, "F. and R. Moore were disfranchised for contempt of sovereign's authority, and calling the officers of the town blood-suckers, and threatening their lives."

1673, Pat. Luttrell "disfranchised for refusing to obey the sovereign when he commanded him to assist him to suppress an uprore of murder."

1678, 1679, 1681.—Freemen were liable to be disfranchised for refusing to contribute with their corporation for the public good; or for suing one another in any but the borough court without the sovereign's leave.

Burgesses, if they did not attend meetings of corporation, were liable to be disfranchised.

#### SOVEREIGNS OF NAAS.

In 1674 the election of the sovereign was conducted in the following manner:—The sovereign for the time being and the burgesses put in the names of three burgesses, out of which the sovereign for the year was elected by the voices of the burgesses and commons; no sovereign to be elected twice in five years. In 1685 the sovereign and two other burgesses named three

other burgesses, of whom one was elected by burgesses and freemen. The newly-elected sovereign had to pay £5 towards his "relief." In 1701 he had to pay £20 to the corporation. I do not know what his perquisites were beyond the fees (collected by the town clerk) appertaining to his position as magistrate, such as bails, bonds, actions, pleas, &c., of which I have a list; and 50s. yearly out of the rents of the commons "for the taking of the customs of the coles and other firing" (1678). The magistracy seems to have been held later by the senior burgesses as well as, or as deputies to, the sovereign. In 1704 there seems to have been some dispute as to sovereignty, "for composing all differences Thomas Jones to be the next sovereign, and the revenues of the corporation for the ensuing year to be employed in treating the corporation, any balance to be divided among the poor. The office then to go to the eldest burgess, and then to the next eldest who has not been sovereign."\*

On state occasions the sovereign, in a scarlet cloak and three-cornered hat, was preceded by the sergeant-at-mace, bearing the mace. He was escorted on station days by the portreeves, the common council, in "seemly gownes," and the masters of fraternities, wearing "cloakes and hatts," and walking in procession (all fines levied on fraternities were allocated to the purchase and repairs of these garments). The latter dignatories, along with six freemen and four halberts, escorted the sovereign to and from church on Sundays, walking in procession. The master of the guilds led the way, next came the master of the hammermen, then the other masters. It would be interesting to know what became of the ancient mace and regalia of the corporation, which were in 1731 in the charge of "one Wall, an innkeeper and a Papist." In 1829 Sergeant James Stewart was sergeant-at-mace and billetmaster. Occasionally, probably on the occurrence of some more than usually glaring piece of jobbery, the Lord Deputy interfered in the election of the sovereign, as in 1682 for some reason, probably because John Aylmer had been elected sovereign two consecutive years, orders were sent by the Lord Deputy to "settle Benjamin Browne as sovereign of Naas." Thereupon the corporation issued a *feri facias* against B. Browne, "to show cause why he should not be disfranchised for several disdemeanours and enormities done by him against this corporation." The corporation having been defeated in this proceeding, B. Browne was put in election for sovereign, and defeated by R. Holmes, who was declared sovereign. A few days later, however, "the assembly conformed to

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\* All this clearly in contravention of their charter.

the Lord Deputy's order, and swore B. Browne in as sovereign."

In Henry VIII.'s reign William Ayshe was sovereign. In Queen Elizabeth's reign Walter Reaves was sovereign. 1608 Nicholas Aysh, sovereign and provost of Naas. 29th April, 1609, Christopher Sherlocke, sovereign; David Tole, Patt Guire, portreeves. 1636, Richard Sherlock, sovereign of Naas, d. Fun. Ent., Bermingham Tower.

The sovereigns of Naas, from 1664 to 1841, were as follows:—

1664 John Brown.	1700 Theobald Bourke and Fran. Spring.
1665 Richard Eustace.	1701 Martin Tucker.
1666 Barth. Turner.	1702 Henry Graydon.
1667 Ed. Harney.	1703 Charles Eustace.
1668 Capt. Dudley Colley.	1704 Thomas Jones.
1669 Capt. Wm. Hoey.	1705 Jonathan Pasley.
1670 Thomas Carr.	1706 Next senior burgess.
1671 Capt. Wm. Sands.	1707 John Page.
1672 Richard Whingate.	1708 James Barry.
1673 Peter Holmes.	1709 Charles Eustace.
1674 Sir Arthur Jones.	1710 Robert Bulkley.
1675 Francis Leigh.	1711 Theo. Bourke and Maurice Annesley.
1676 William Forster.	1712 R. Turner.
1677     "     "	1713 Richard Aylmer.
1678 Wm. Dunbavein.	1714 Thomas Jones.
1679 Arth. Shepheard.	1715 William Eustace.
1680 John Aylmer.	1716 Maurice Keating.
1681     "     "	1717 Thomas Burgh.
1682 Benjamin Browne.	1718 Richard Neville.
1683 Probably Benjamin Browne.	1719 John Eustace.
1684 Sir Arthur Jones.	1720 Alexander Graydon.
1685 Thomas Forster.	1721 Charles Eustace.
1686 Thomas Hewitson.	1722 Robert Cairnes.
1687 Wm. Earl of Limerick.	1723 William Parsons.
1688     "     "	1724 Theo. Bourke (apparently).
1689 Probably Sir William Sandys, Bart.	1725 John Bourke.
1690 Chas. White, sworn bur- gess and sovereign, <i>nemine contradicente.*</i>	1726 Thomas Burgh.
1691 Charles White.	1727     "     "
1692 R. Neville.	1728 John Bourke.
1693     "     "	1729 Rev. John Spring.
1694 John Aylmer.	1730 Thomas Burgh.
1695 Alexander Graydon.	1731 John Bourke.
1696     "     "	1732 Thomas Burgh.
1697 Richard Eustace.	1733 John Bourke.
1698     "     "	1734 Thomas Burgh.
1699 John Annesley.	1735 John Bourke.
	1736 Thomas Burgh.
	1737 John Bourke.

\* By y<sup>e</sup> same toaken y<sup>t</sup> they were forced to run hartily, for y<sup>t</sup> day being y<sup>e</sup> day after y<sup>e</sup> Break of y<sup>e</sup> Boyne (Battle of the Boyne, 1st July, 1690, the day before).

1738	Thomas Burgh.	1790	Lord Naas.
1739	John Bourke.	1791	John Ormsby.
1740	Thomas Burgh.	1792	Hugh Stafford.
1741	John Bourke.	1793	"
1742	Thomas Burgh.	1794	"
1743	John Bourke.	1795	James Davis.
1744	Thomas Burgh.	1796	"
1745	John Bourke.	1797	"
1746	Thomas Burgh.	1798	Edward Sheridan.
1747	John Bourke.	1799	"
1748	Thomas Burgh.	1800	James Davis.
1749	John Bourke.	1801	"
1750	"	1802	"
1751	"	1803	John Earl of Mayo.
1752	"	1804	"
1753	Thomas Burgh.	1805	"
1754	John Bourke.	1806	"
1755	Thomas Burgh.	1807	"
1756	John Bourke.	1808	"
1757	"	1809	"
1758	"	1810	Rev. Richard Bourke.
1759	Rev. John Burgh.	1811	Rev. J. Bourke.
1760	Hon. John Bourke.	1812	John Earl of Mayo.
1761	Richard Burgh.	1813	Rev. G. Bourke.
1762	Hon. John Bourke.	1814	John Earl of Mayo.
1763	"	1815	Joseph Bourke.
1764	John Bourke.	1816	John Earl of Mayo.
1765	Hon. John Bourke.	1817	William Mills.
1766	James Warren.	1818	Earl of Mayo.
1767	John Stafford.	1819	Rev. George Bourke.
1768	Joseph Dean Bourke.	1820	Earl of Mayo.
1769	John Bourke, jun.	1821	"
1770	William Hughes.	1822	Robert Bourke
1771	John Bourke, jun.	1823	Earl of Mayo.
1772	"	1824	Robert Bourke.
1773	"	1825	Earl of Mayo.
1774	"	1826	"
1775	James Warren.	1827	"
1776	William Hughes.	1828	Joseph Bourke.
1777	Hon. John Bourke.	1829	Bourke, Dean of Ossory.
1778	Robert Stafford.	1830	"
1779	Hon. John Bourke.	1831	Robert Bourke.
1780	Robert Stafford.	1832	Joseph Bourke.
1781	"	1833	Robert Bourke.
1782	"	1834	Earl of Mayo.
1783	"	1835	George Bourke.
1784	"	1836	Robert Bourke.
1785	"	1837	— Bourke.
1786	"	1838	Richard Bourke.
1787	"	1839	Rev. J. W. Bourke.
1788	"	1840	Richard Bourke.
1789	"	1841	Robert Bourke.

During the last thirty years of the corporation it appears that one Reynolds was deputy-sovereign. He lived where Mr.

Eagleton's butcher's shop is now. Mr. Eglington, butcher, then lived where Dr. Carter's house now stands.

The town clerk in 1667 was Thomas (Edmund).

1689 Edward Sherlock, at £12 per annum.

1702 William Eustace, at five per cent. on all public moneys received and expended (later, appointed for life).

1732 Edward Garrett.

1743 Town clerk's salary seems to have been £5.

1749 John Byrne, appointed.

*Law Officers of the Corporation.*—In 1667 Thomas Dodd was the attorney of the corporation. In 1678 it was Miles Bourke; then came Neville, the recorder; and in 1723 "Thomas Burgh, counsellor-at-law, was recorder of the corporation, *vice* Neville deceased, and had the benefit of the Whitsuntide fair settled on him as Neville had." This was equivalent in 1743 to £7 11s. 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

The constable's (probably town sergeant's) salary in 1825 was £4, and was raised to £5 the next year. In 1833 the town sergeant and billetmaster received £15. In that year Pellett was appointed corporation agent, *vice* Payne removed.

#### THE COMMON COUNCIL.

In 1670 the masters of each fraternity sent two persons to serve on the common council of the corporation. In 1672 (probably in connexion with the grant of the new charter), it was dissolved, but must have been reconstituted, because in 1688 it consisted of nine burgesses, whose duty it was to advise the sovereign to make bye-laws, applot money, subject to sovereign's approval.

#### FRATERNITIES.

The various trades in Naas divided themselves into three lots, and each lot elected a master to such joint fraternity, and the whole body of fraternities elected for themselves a head, called the master of the guilds. A Chancery Decree of Queen Elizabeth's reign orders: "That the Fraternitie of Shoemakers in the Naase shall henceforth be free from any imposition to be laid on them by the Sufferan of said town." And another, in same reign, frees all inhabitants of Kilkenny from toll and custom at the gate or in the market-place of Nace.

In 1688 Laurence Hely was master of the guilds. John Cardiff, Esq., was master of the hammermen.

In 1672 William Dunbavein was master of the fraternity of merchants, weavers, dyers, bakers, and brewers. Robert Holmes

was master of the tanners, shoemakers, butchers, and skinners. John Harding was master of the smiths, carpenters, masons, and millers.

The masters of these fraternities had power "to seize upon all bread exposed for sale, and all other commodities unmerchandise that were not free in the corporation, and to distrain for quarterage."

#### THE WATCH.

In 1668 every man of sixteen years or over in Naas had to take his turn of watching, unless excused by the sovereign. (This probably only refers to freemen.) Four men, armed with halberts, watched nightly in the town, and on being released from duty left their halberts in the sovereign's house. Each of the four wards, into which the parish was divided, provided one halbert, and sometimes freemen provided a halbert as the price of their freedom.

#### COURTS.

Besides the Courts of Pleas, and Courts of Pypowder, already described, I find mention of Courts Leet, which apparently dealt with presentments of money for public purposes, assessors being afterwards appointed to assess arbitrarily the amount due by the individuals liable (this duty being apparently performed by the common council, when that body existed), and Exheators Courts, which, I think, dealt with matters of title.

In 1688 no action could lie (in the Borough Court, I presume) for a debt under 3s., nor for one over £5, without the consent of the sovereign.

In 1672 "David Barlowe was fined £20 for abusing the deputy-sovereign (not to be levied, unless he offends again)."

1675. Charles Cottrell "ordered to remain in gaol until he finds security for his good behaviour, for the abuse done by him against deputy-sovereign."

1708. Walter Gormage, apprentice to Thomas Ardagh, slater, released from his apprenticeship on account of his master not clothing him, or supplying him with linen, clothes, stockings, and brogues, and other necessaries, he being barefoot.

#### FAIRS AND MARKETS.

In 1226 an eight-day fair was held in Naas.

In 1609 fairs were held on Ascension Day and two days after, and St. Martin's Days and two days after.

In 1671 double that number of fairs were allowed by charter to be held.



In 1792 free grain markets were instituted in Naas.

1813. The new market house at canal harbour was opened.

Meat market was held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Potato market began by ring of bell, at 10 a.m., in April and May.

Grain market at 11 a.m. by ring of bell.

Pig market was held behind the market-house.

All meat, fish, butter, poultry, vegetables, and eggs sold here. Shortly after 1813 it appears that, probably for want of room, all except the grain markets were transferred to the old market-place, behind the present Presbyterian meeting-house, and were continued there until transferred to the yard behind the present town-hall.

In 1813 a market jury was established, to examine the articles offered for sale as to soundness and suitability, to visit market-shops and cellars, inspect weights and measures, with power to seize and fine. This jury was sworn to "well, truly, and diligently execute such offices in Naas, without favour or affection, malice or ill-will.

In 1827 fairs were held February 17, March 17, May 8, May 19, October 20, November 22.

I have several petitions and letters about the crainers of Naas. In 1756 the four crainers were Ambrose Dunne, Robert Power, Daniel Cole, and Oliver Eustace. In 1807 the crainers paid £2 12s. 6d. per annum for their appointment. In 1809, £18 4s. In 1821 Wilson Pollen was crainer and store-keeper. He paid £40; and in 1825 crainers paid £50. In 1826 they paid £26, charging only 1d. per barrel or sack weighed. In 1830, £20. About 1831 the weighmaster, potato market, received a salary of £20; crainer, £12, making no charge for weighing. In 1833 the crainer offers £20 for the appointment.

#### SCHOOLS.

In 1671 a Mr. England had a schoolhouse at 30s. per annum rent, and a sess of £7 7s. was raised to repair and build it.

1684. A temporary school existed in loft over the guard-house, and in 1714 Michael Condon had a school in the Tholsell.

Law's Topographical Dictionary of 1813 says:—"In Naas there are four public schools, teaching 270 children, and ten private schools, teaching 320 children."

There was a "free school," where Christian Brothers' school now stands, about 1820. In 1847 P. Darcy had a school "on Sallins-road, late Curran's house."

1720. £10 per annum was allowed for free education of two children of the liberties, to be selected by the assembly.

## SCAVENGING, LIGHTING, PAVING, ETC.

The portreeves were responsible for the cleanliness of the town, and obedience to bye- (or town-) laws. In 1668 each inhabitant had to clean the street before his door, and carry away refuse every Saturday night, under supervision of the portreeves, under penalty of 3s. 4d. Twenty years later the rule was that all dirt was swept from each side into the middle of the street, to be carried away by a scavenger, who received 6d. per quarter from each householder. In 1719 a scavenger was paid £2 per annum to clean the streets. In 1694 each householder was ordered, under a penalty of 40s., to "pave before his house the length of the range to the middle of the causeway." In 1701 "£20 was to be paid for the paving of the streets of the borough by Darby Monaghan, paviour." It is, however, evident that none of the streets ever were paved from that date to this. In 1840 the Lord Lieutenant ordered a meeting of the inhabitants to be called, to carry out the Act of Parliament for the lighting of the town.

In 1837 Naas is described as "of about 600 houses, only a few handsomely built, remainder of indifferent appearance, not paved or lighted, but inhabitants amply supplied with water from wells. It has assizes and quarter sessions."

Population in 1827, 3073 persons.

In 1786, by my road map (official), the only slated houses in Naas were the old jail, the new jail (now courthouse), the courthouse (old Tholsell), St. David's Church, and the town house.

In 1664 there were (*inter alia*) the following bye-laws in force:—

"Carriages not to stand in the street more then twenty-four hours, except for sale, under a penalty of 12d.

"That all persons that live in the town have a good chimney made of brick or stone, upon paying £5, to prevent firing."

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

Whenever the customs and rents of the town were insufficient for the expenditure, a "sess" was imposed upon the inhabitants. In 1681 a "sess" was made on the basis of acreage for the repairs of the church on the four wards of the parish, and collected by the wardens. I have a list of the owners of lands, with their acreage at that time. Whenever there was a surplus it seems to have been expended in "treating y<sup>e</sup> corporation at the different houses of entertainment in Naas (in 1726 Owens, Parsons,

Ussher, Belwood's, Eglinton's, Mooney's, and Lockhart's), or in entertaining distinguished visitors."

In 1713 "Thomas Burgh was repaid £8 16s. for a gold box, purchased by him for the corporation to present Lord Chancellor Phipps with the freedom of the borough in it."

In 1737 "Henry Boyle, Speaker of the House of Commons, and a Lord Justice of Ireland, presented with the freedom in a gold box."

1684. "£15 expended in treating y<sup>e</sup> Duke of Ormond."

1714. "£9 expended in treating y<sup>e</sup> corporation at Mr. Parsons' and Mr. Eglinton's (he lived where Dr. Carter's medical hall now stands) house in Naas y<sup>e</sup> day that King George was proclaimed king."

1713. "£5 13s. 8d., being the Queen's birthday, expended at Mr. Turner's."

1716. "£11 3s. 10d. expended on treating y<sup>e</sup> corporation on y<sup>e</sup> King's accession to y<sup>e</sup> throne (in 1714), his coronation day, Prince's birthday, y<sup>e</sup> Thanksgiving Day, and y<sup>e</sup> day y<sup>e</sup> Duke of Grafton came to town."

1717. "Treats to corporation on Prince William's birthday and the King's birthday."

#### CROWN AND CHIEF RENTS.

Queen Elizabeth's charter reserved crown rent, £10.

That of 1609, £4 crown rent, and £9 to repairs of church.

That of 1671, £6 out of the customs, £4 out of the tolls of fairs, and a sum to repair of church.

In 1720, a receipt in my possession:—

"Received of Sovereign and Burgesses of the town of Naas by Mr. William Parsons, £11 17s. 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. for the Customs of the town of Naas, for confirmation of their charter, of an ancient chiefry issuing out of Dudd's Burgagery in the town of Naas, in Com. Kildare and Bar. Naas, this 6th May, 1720, for one year's Crown Rent due Michaelmas last.

"FRANCIS ASHE, *Collector*.

£11 17 7<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
3 4 fees, &c., } A total of £12 0 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>."

In 1728 and 1743 the crown rent paid was £12 0s. 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d., and £6 15s. for Naas Church.

I have a list of the income and expenditure of the Naas Corporation for some years.

1722, '23, '24, and '25.—Income insufficient for expenditure.

1743.—Income (including quit rent of Gingerstown, £3), £98 9s. 6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d.; expenditure, £57 9s. 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. (including crown rent,

£12 0s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; three sergeants for their cloaks, £3 9s.; town clerk's salary, £5; rent of tollhouse, £2 10s.; bull, £3; servants attending the gates, £9; clock-keeper, £2 10s.; church, £6 15s.; charity to Burnet, £1 18s. 10d.; to the bailiffs during the winter six months for their breakfast, £1 6s.; Mr. Lee's bill, £9 19s. 11d.). Nete produce, £40 19s. 10d.

1782—Income,	£86	6	2	Expenditure,	£33	8	4	
1783	„	98	2	5	„	52	14	9
1784	„	75	8	6	„	69	13	9
1786	„	50	12	0	„	49	7	1
1791	„	40	7	4	„	41	15	9
1792	„	39	17	6	„	40	15	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
1793	„	33	11	8	„	40	11	9
1794	„	34	0	11	„	41	14	9
1795	„	32	7	8	„	40	16	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1796	„	31	12	9	„	40	8	9
1797	„	31	1	0	„	40	8	9
1798	„	21	6	1	„	40	8	9
1799	„	46	14	2	„	26	6	8
1800	„	24	19	6	„	40	8	9
<hr/>								
1801—Deficit,	£15	8	1					
1802	„	15	13	3				
1803	„	4	8	5				
1804	„	10	19	9 $\frac{1}{2}$				
1805					Profit,	£1	10	6
1806					„	6	8	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
1807					„	1	4	11

Although the detailed account of 1703 is marked “Return of y<sup>e</sup> Income of y<sup>e</sup> Corporation,” I think it only includes the tolls and customs.

In 1743 the parish bull cost £3. In 1841 £8 was paid for a bull for the poor of Naas. In 1784 a copy of accounts included one bull rope, £1 4s. 3d.

In 1707 the bull-ring was opposite the market-cross, and I am told there is a bull-ring at the old market-house at canal harbour, but an old inhabitant informs me that the bull-baiting was held at the ancient site in his memory.

A bull, he tells me, was presented annually by the sovereign to the poor of Naas, and was fastened by a chain to a ring in a great stone, which was sunk in the ground near where the present ouncils now stand, which was close to the ancient market-cross, and in front of the steps of the old Tholsell. Everyone who had a bulldog, “tried his dog” on the bull, and after the

spectators had enough of this brutal spectacle, the poor brute was slaughtered and given to the poor. The last bull baited in Naas broke loose, tossed a cavalry man, and after careering wildly about the town, was ultimately stabbed in the water-course in Basin-lane by James Mitchell (the granduncle of Miss Donohoe), who lived where Dr. Carney now resides.

#### IV.—ST. DAVID'S CHURCH AND VICARAGE.

This church is built on the site of St. Patrick's pupal or tent. The reason for its having been dedicated to St. David is given under the year 1170. It has been fully described in an article written by the Ven. Archdeacon of Kildare in the *JOURNAL* of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society, 1891; in Sir T. Drew's pamphlet of 1878; and in Bishop Comerford's "Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin." It is conjectured that a more ancient church, dedicated to St. Patrick, occupied the site of the present church. It had in olden times three chantries, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, St. Mary, and St. Catherine.

This edifice having been so minutely described by others, I shall merely give some minor notes, taken chiefly from my old manuscripts.

1672. The churchyard, formerly open, was railed in for the first time, but it remained a sort of thoroughfare until 1679, when the lane, which was east of the Tholsell (*i. e.* at back of present Presbyterian meeting-house and Mr. Scott's and other premises), and which led through the churchyard, probably by the front of the "Vicarage Castil," by west of stream to Corbin's ford, was closed. There was in 1788, besides the present entrance, one from Main-street to churchyard, beside Mrs. O'Neill's present public-house, where there is now a gateway.

1678. William Lattin paid £7 to the use of the church. His representatives still have a vault by the church.

1680. Corbin's gate was pulled down, and used for repair of the church, and the vicar expended £55 in like manner.

1708. A cushion and Common Prayer Book were bought for use of church; cost £3. It would be interesting to know whether the former is still in existence.

1709. "John Mantle to have £5 per an. for looking to y<sup>e</sup> clock and ringing y<sup>e</sup> Church Bell,"—at 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., daily, holidays excepted.

Besides this there are references of 1719, 1743, 1756, to the town clock of Naas, probably on the Tholsell, and in 1866 a public subscription list was opened to provide the present town clock. The first list amounted to £75.

The present church bell is dated 1674. In 1679 Thomas Moore's rent for the commons about the Knocks was 1s. per ann., and he to new cast y<sup>e</sup> market bell and hang it up. In 1813 there was a bell in the new market-house at canal harbour, and in 1820 one on the building, now stables of St. David's House.

1715, Sept. 30. I have the lease for ever granted by Mr. Radcliffe, vicar, William Dumbavin and James Willson, churchwardens (in pursuance of a previous act of vestry), to Thomas Burgh and his heirs for ever of a portion of Naas Church, 9½ by 7 ft., now occupied by the three seats marked "Oldtown."

1734. £70 was raised by applotment for repairs of church, at 4½*d.* per acre, addressed to the churchwardens, sidesmen, and constables of the parish, which was divided into four wards. I have this applotment, showing names and acreage of all holders of land in the parish.

1744. Thomas Burgh, of Oldtown, purchased from Richard, Earl of Ross (and Ed. Keane, his creditor), the Naas advowson, presentation, and patronage.

1767, April 19. Extract from deed executed by sovereign, portreeves, &c., of Naas, "taking into consideration the ruinous condition of the steeple, resolved to pull down said steeple and build another in such place of the churchyard belonging to said church as should be approved of by John Bourke, one of the Commissioners of H. M. Revenue, which steeple shall be built after the manner of Saint Patrick's, Dublin, sufficient to contain a ring of eight bells of equal size with the bells of Saint Patrick's steeple, and they grant to John Bourke and his heirs £100 per annum for 31 years out of the revenues of the Corporation for said purpose. Any residue to be spent on repairing and adorning the church."

This ambitious scheme was not carried out, for I have in vain searched St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, for any likeness to our steeple at St. David's.

Austin Cooper in 1781 states:—"The Church in Naas is very plain, with the chancel in ruins. A steeple was begun here last year by Lord Mayo, and carried only for one story; he has again undertaken the work and began it last Monday (Aug. 25), and when I was here I saw him overseeing the workmen. I visited this place 7th Aug., 1782, and found only a 2nd story finished and no sign of the continuance of the work. 7th Aug., 1781.—The Church of Naas on the South side formerly consisted of . . . plain Gothic arches, now built into windows, and at a small distance was a parallel wall as if it had been a lateral aisle, or something in that style."

In 1789 the sum of £118 11s. 3d. was expended on the roof of the church. (Such an outlay in those days must have represented an entire new roof, probably that now existing.)

Towards the close of the eighteenth century the Vicarage Castle must have been little better than a ruin, for on my great-uncle the Rev. Walter de Burgh's appointment to the vicarage in 1832 he had to pay the representative of his predecessor £400 for improvements made in the latter's time, and to lay out an additional £400 in new roofing, flooring, papering, painting, building staircase and coalhouse, yard, &c.; besides £200 expenses on entering vicarage.

About 1830 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners gave £270 for repairs of the church. I have seen a lithograph of the church tower of that date, and have a tracing of it. It seems to have then been as it is at present.

Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of 1837 states:—"The Vicarage of Naas is united to the Rectory of Carogh. The Rectory is appropriate to the funds of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to provide £126 for the perpetual curacy of Belfast."

The present sexton's house has been used for same purpose since before 1793.

LIST OF VICARS (INCOMPLETE).

Between 1206 and 1223. Magister Alanus, Decanus del Nas. Willelmus, Vicarius de Nas.

1358. Tho. Mirrivale, Vicar. del Naas.

1388. Ditto.

1541. Patrick Whyte presented to the Vicarage of St. David de Naas. He was still Vicar in 1566. See *Close Rolls*.

1604. William Pillsworth, A. M., Vicar of Naas and Carberry.\*

1681. The Rev. Edward Harvey is mentioned as the late vicar.

1681-1700. No record.

1700. John Brereton was Vicar of Naas.

1715. Rev. Mr. Radcliffe was Vicar of Naas. He died December, 1732.

1732. Rev. Mr. Garnett appointed.

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\* William Pillsworth was appointed Bishop of Kildare. "And in consideration that said Bp'rick does not at present exceed £60 per ann., whereby he may not be able to maintain fitting hospitality & other charges incumbent on the same, the aforesaid Vicarages of Naas & Carberry were granted to him *in commendam*." (*Patent Rolls*, vi.)—ED.

1741. Rev. Mr. Spring, Vicar, was buried. He died November, 1741.

1742. Rev. Mr. Dawson died.

1750. Rev. John Burgh resigned the Vicarage.

1752. Rev. William Donnellan appointed.

1759. Rev. Mr. Slator appointed Rector; yet in 1766 William Donnellan was Vicar of Naas. See *Comerford*, i. 271.

1830. Rev. Walter Burgh appointed.

He was succeeded by our present Vicar.

Some of the entries in the old parish records of births, deaths, and marriages are curious. For instance:—

Feb. 27, 1690—"2 Strangers buried which was taken out of John Lawlor's house by the Rapparees, and cuppled like dogs and drowned them in the millpond at Sigginstown; the said strangers were Englishmen."

Feb. 15, 1683—"Buried James Carey, Clk. He was formerly a Popish Priest."

1688. "Captain Nicks was buried; nicknamed Swift Nicks."

Stray children, and infants found on doorsteps, were usually baptized with the names of John (or Mary) Naas.

The word "wife," as the designation of the mother, is occasionally pointedly omitted, and in other cases the word substituted for it is distinctly libellous.

Inquisition, 7th July, 1606, states that the Proctor of the Church of St. David usually received the rents of certain lands for the use of the priests, and the provosts and burgesses of the town of Naas did nominate the said priests to be incumbents. (Certainly, in 1609, the sovereign, &c., petitioned for this very power, and it was denied them by the charter of that year.)

Colgan says the Diocese of Kildare was divided into four deaneries, viz. Kildare, Naas, Killith, and Cloan.

*Killashee Church* has been fully described by the Rev. Denis Murphy in his article published in the *JOURNAL* of the County Kildare Archæological Society, 1891.



# JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.



*CELTIC CROSSES AT CASTLEDERMOT.*

By MISS MARGARET STOKES.

**A**T the recent visit of the County Kildare Archæological Society to Castledermot, Miss Stokes gave the following interesting account to the visitors of the Celtic crosses. She said:—

The two high crosses which I have been asked to show you to-day, appear to be two of the oldest as well as the most interesting I have yet seen in Ireland. These monuments should not be approached as sepulchral. They were sanctuary crosses, beneath the shadow of which a fugitive found safety; but they were also crosses of the Scripture—epitomes of the Bible story, as was the cross at Clonmacnois, named in the “Annals of the Four Masters” “Cross-na-Screaptra.” Thus these high crosses of Ireland in their panels offer a series of subjects which should be explained by the same method that foreign antiquaries have adopted for interpreting the sculptures on the façades and porches of the great cathedrals of France or Milan, or the Certosa of Pavia. This method is based on the systems of image-writing necessarily adopted for teaching the salient truths of Christianity before printing was invented and the masses had learned to read manuscript Bibles. The interpreter of these crosses should come equipped with three kinds of knowledge—first, that of the methods of teaching the Bible message of salvation by type and antitype, such as the picture

books called "Biblia Pauperum," where events were treated, not only as historic, but also as prophetic of Christ; second, a knowledge of the history of the founder or first bishop of the Church to which the cross belongs, events in whose life may be illustrated among the sculptures; third, a familiarity with the intricate patterns and characteristic designs of Celtic art.

PLATE.—The scriptural message of the Redemption of man on the north cross of Castledermot commences with a figure of Death in the tomb, awakening to the sound of the Gospel message, on the north side of the plinth. This is a true picture of a Pagan, not a Christian interment. The emaciated figure is seated and swathed; his arms clasping his knees—an image of death in the soul as in the body. In the "Painter's Guide of Mount Athos" it is ordered that when the Crucifixion of Christ is represented (as we shall see it on the west face of this cross) that a hollow or cave tomb should be shown at the base of the cross, in which the bones of Adam appear washed by the blood that falls from the feet of Christ.



FIG. 1.

INTERMENT IN PARCELLY HAY BARROW.

(See Bateman's "Ten Years' Diggings.")

Figure 1 represents the sitting posture in an interment described by Mr. Thomas Bateman in his "Ten years' Diggings in Celtic and Saxon Grave-hills in the Counties of Derby,



DEATH (?)

Representation of Pagan Interment on High Cross, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.



Stafford, and York," p. 22. This skeleton was found in opening a cairn near Parceley Hay Wharf of the Cromford and High Peak Railway. "The body had been placed upright in a sitting or crouching posture, as was abundantly evident from the order in which the bones were found."

It seems probable that originally the attitude was the same as that represented in Plate; and the arms were clasped round the legs and held in position by such bandages or cords as we see represented in the sculptured figure on the cross. Remains of such cords used for supporting the dead in position were found by M. Tschudi of Glaris on his scientific expedition to Peru upon some mummies, where the legs were drawn up to the chest, and the arms folded (see fig. 2).

This illustration is taken from *Révue Archéologique*, nouvelle série, 9ième tom., 1864, p. 288 (Lettnia M. A. Bertrand, "Sur l'attitude repliés dans les Sépultures antiques").

And Mr. Worthington G. Smith describes the finding of a human skeleton, thirty years ago, near and behind the "Waggon and Horses" Inn at Dunstable. It attracted attention because the face was between the two drawn-up knees as if it had been tied into position with cords. (See "Man, the Primeval Savage," p. 330, by Worthington G. Smith, 1894).

On the strange figure represented above on Castledermot cross (Plate), the cords or bandages used for the purposes of keeping the skeleton in its position are carefully represented, and the whole subject is most valuable and interesting as illustrating the position and method of binding the corpse while the skeleton was still clothed with flesh.

Did the sculptor of this figure draw from his imagination or from memory? Was this form of interment practised in Ireland to a comparatively late period?

This figure may be taken as the prelude to the drama which opens at the Fall of man. On the west face of the cross Adam and Eve are represented eating the forbidden fruit, the serpent

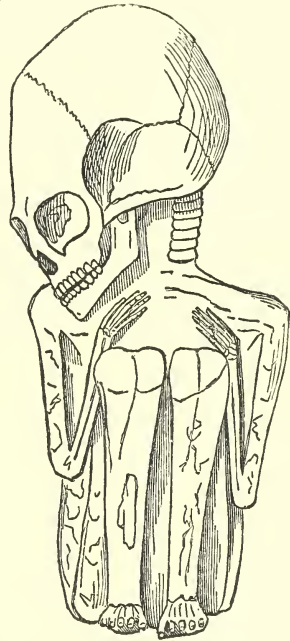


FIG. 2.  
PERUVIAN MUMMY.

twining up the stem of the tree. In the Byzantine art the tree is the fig-tree; in Northern art it is an apple-tree as here.

The redemption is prefigured by the sacrifice of Isaac—in the words of the “*Biblia Pauperum*,” “The father sacrifices his son, who typifies Christ.”

David on his harp foretells the redemption of man.

Daniel in the den of lions is the special symbol (along with the three children in the furnace) used in the art of the Catacombs to signify triumph over suffering. In the “*Mount Athos Guide*” it is directed that he should stand in the midst of *seven* lions, as we see him on the cross at Moone, as stated in the Apocryphal book, Bel and the Dragon, verse 32. In the “*Biblia Pauperum*” this is a type of Christ’s resurrection and triumph over death.

The figure head-downmost, between two soldiers, may signify the martyrdom of St. Peter, as prescribed by the “*Mount Athos Guide*”—“St. Peter crucified upside down—his head down, his feet upwards—soldiers encircle him: some nail his hands, others his feet.”\*

The miracle of loaves and fishes—a subject prescribed in the “*Mount Athos Guide*,” and appearing in the “*Art of the Catacombs*” as a type of the Lord’s Supper—on the south side of the cross.

Melchisedek comes before Abraham, arrayed in sacerdotal vestment, holding plate and chalice of wine prescribed by the “*Mount Athos Guide*,” used in the “*Speculum*” as type of Lord’s Supper, and also in the “*Biblia Pauperum*.” “*Mount Athos Guide*” directs that it should be treated thus—“The righteous Melchisedek, arrayed in a sacerdotal vestment, holds plate and chalice of wine. Abraham, dressed as a warrior, stands before him. And the “*Biblia Pauperum*” adds—“In the 14th chapter of Genesis, that when Abraham returned from the slaughter of his enemies, bringing with him much spoil, which he had wrested from his enemies, then Melchisedek, the high priest of God, brought him bread and wine. *Melchisedek is a type of Christ who at supper gave to His disciples bread and wine—that is, His body and blood to eat and drink.*” And in the “*Speculum Humanæ Salvationis*” this subject is ordered as prophetic of the Last Supper, along with the fall of Manna, the Jews eating the Paschal Lamb. With this the prophetic subjects on this cross close, and there follows the great scene of the final Act of Redemption, the death of Christ on the Cross, and

\* This may also represent the death of Isaiah the Prophet, a type in the *speculum* for the crucifixion of Christ. Isaiah hung and sawn in two, a Rabbinical tradition that he was punished because he said he had seen God.

His Church bearing witness in the groups of the Twelve Apostles standing round the cross. A soldier, Longinus, pierces the right side of Christ; another soldier holds a sponge attached to the end of the rod, which he holds to the mouth of Christ, as directed by the "Mount Athos Guide" and the "Biblia Pauperum." Although these acts were not simultaneous, yet it is quite in accordance with the spirit of ancient Art that they should be so represented, because of their symbolic meaning—the humanity of our Lord shown in the thirst, the divinity in the "flow of healing waters, to wit, the sacraments, from His side when pierced."

### THE SOUTH CROSS.

On this cross we have on the west face, and on the plinth, eight of the same subjects as on the north cross, and, in addition, Noah entering the ark, and four new subjects on the north side of the shaft. In the Art of the Catacombs the deluge signified by Noah entering the Ark prefigured *baptism*, but this type does not occur in the "Biblia Pauperum" or the "Speculum." In the "Mount Athos Guide" we read—"Fallow beasts and birds and all kinds of animals enter the ark."

At the base of the shaft at the north side, the first subject we see is a favourite one in the Catacombs. It is named Orante in Italian. A figure standing upright, with arms outspread. This subject appears to be of Eastern origin, as we see a Madonna Orante standing thus, in *bas-relief*, at Sta. Maria in Porta, in Ravenna, brought from the East at the time of the Crusades. Dr. Northcote, in his work on the Catacombs, associates this figure with the Good Shepherd as symbolising the relations of Christ with the Church.

Next comes a subject difficult to decipher, unless it be the Pagan one of Æneas escaping from Troy, carrying his old father, Anchises, on his back. Legends of Pagan mythology have found their way into Christian art, such as Codrus, King of Athens, Semiramis, Cyrus, and others. It remains to be discovered whether the story of the escape from Troy was utilized in the same way.

In the next panel we see a figure holding sword and shield (circular), possibly one of the twelve Apostles.

The next figure holding book and sword, with child standing by, is probably Matthew, whose symbol was a boy or an angel, and who holds a sword, the emblem of his martyrdom.

Two figures wrestling symbolise prayer—Jacob wrestling with the angel.



MOONE ABBEY IN 1784.  
 (From a sketch by Austin Cooper.)

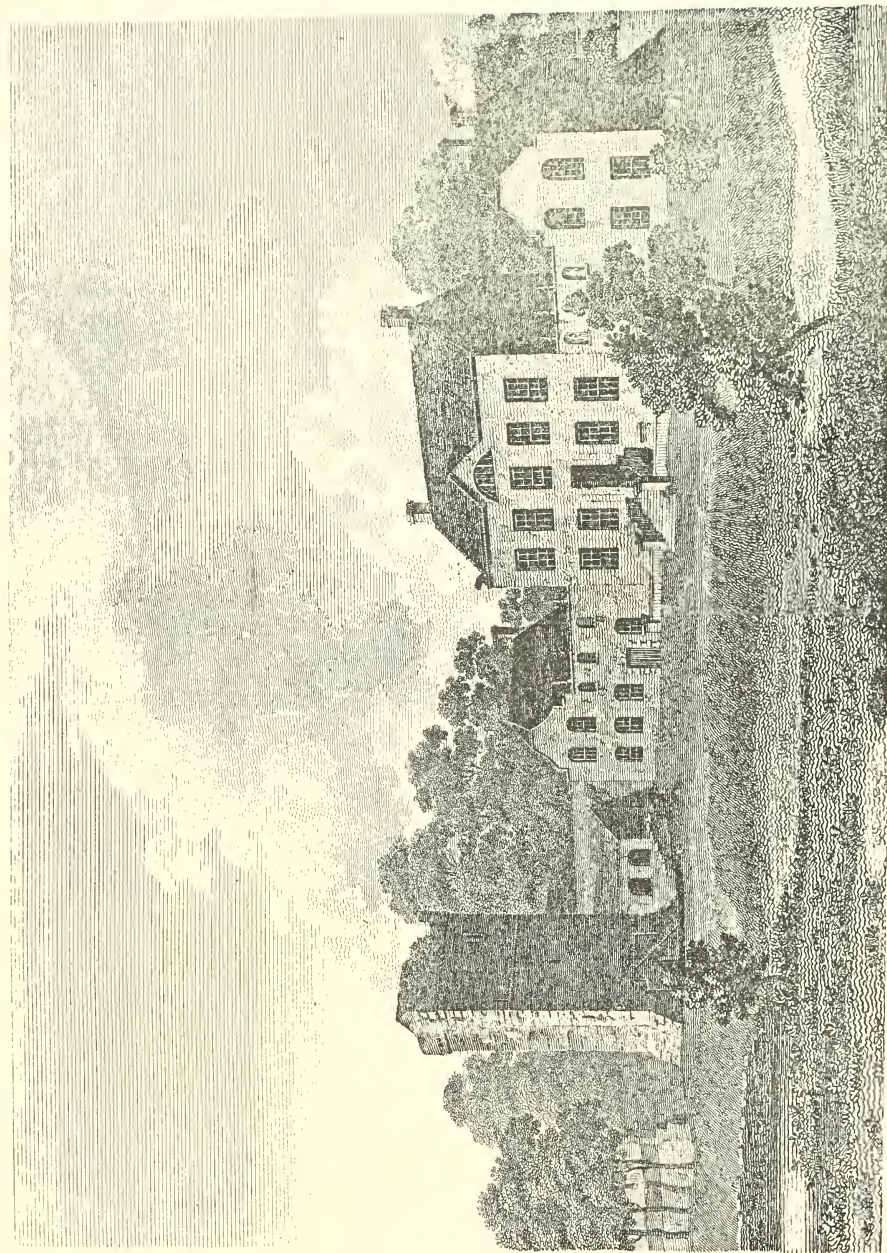
*SOME NOTES ON THE ABBEY AND CROSS  
 OF MOONE AND OTHER PLACES IN THE  
 VALLEY OF THE GRIESE.*

By F. M. CARROLL.

**M**OOONE is a village in south Kildare on the high road from Kilcullen to Carlow, and half way between them. Near the village, but on the opposite side of the river Griese, in Mr. Carroll's pleasure-grounds, at the rear of his house, are the ruins of the ancient abbey of Moone, founded by St. Columbkil in the sixth century; and adjoining is one of the finest and most perfect stone sculptured crosses in Ireland, recently restored. This dates from the 10th or 11th century, and was probably erected in memory of St. Columbkil, the founder of the church, and patron of the parish.

The site of this abbey is in a valley of the most picturesque character, through which flows the river Griese. The "Glaschrichi," *i.e.* the "boundary stream," of many ancient memories, so called because it then formed the boundaries of certain





MOONE ABBEY HOUSE AND CASTLE A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.  
(Reproduced from Grose's Antiquities of Ireland.)



tribal lands, as it now marks for a short distance, near Dunlavin, the boundaries of the counties of Kildare and Wicklow, and also of the dioceses of Kildare and Glendalough.

There are good grounds for believing that the valley of the Griese was almost the first district in Ireland where Christianity was established by St. Palladius, the precursor of St. Patrick. "He was ordained and sent by Pope Celestine, A. D. 431, to convert this island, lying under the wintry cold. He received from Pope Celestine a box containing the relics of St. Peter and St. Paul, and of other saints, and a book-sachel containing the sacred writings, and he sent him to preach to the Scots who believed in Christ." At least it is so recorded in the "Book of Armagh," written some time previous to the year 700, from the dictation of Aedh (Hugh) the anchorite bishop of Sletty, who died A. D. 698.

Palladius landed where the town of Wicklow now stands. He seems to have met with fierce opposition, but succeeded in working his way through Wicklow, and founding several churches, till at last he came to "Killeen Cormac," on the right bank of the river Griese, about four miles north of Moone. Here he founded a church, and left in it his box of relics, his book-sachel, and his waxen tablets, on which he used to write. This was, therefore, probably the last church founded by him.

Dr. Todd, in his life of St. Patrick, states that these relics were preserved in Killeen Cormac up to the ninth century, after which it was plundered by the Danes, who had settled at Dunlavin, about four miles distant.

St. Patrick (who also visited the valley of the Griese) when on his way from the North of Ireland southwards, arranged a conference at Tara with King Laoghaire-mac-Nial. Here he met the regal bard and Druid, Dubhtach-mac-ua-Lughaire, whom he some time afterwards converted, together with his nephew Fiace, who was also a bard.

Dubhtach became the most trusted friend and disciple of St. Patrick; so that it was said he consulted him as to whom he should consecrate bishop of Leinster, and received from him the statement of the qualifications for such an office, namely, that he should be:—

(1) A free man; (2) of good family; (3) without disgrace; (4) without blemish; (5) who is not too little, who is not too great of age; (6) healthy; (7) a man of one wife, to whom has not been born save one child.

Dubhtach naturally recommended his nephew Fiace, in whom he told the saint all these conditions were fulfilled.

St. Patrick then consecrated him bishop of Leinster, and gave him a bell, a reliquary, a crozier, and a book-sachel for his new church at Sleibhte, *i.e.* (in the mountains), now called Sletty, about one mile from Carlow town at base of Queen's County hills.

After visiting King Laodghaire at Tara St. Patrick came to Naas, and thence, *via* Kileullen, to Narraghmore in Western Liffé; the great central plain of Kildare. The river was then called "Amhain-na-Liffé," *i.e.* the "river of the plain, afterwards Anglicised "Anna Liffey." Its more ancient name was Ruartach, *i.e.* "The swiftly flowing."

As the saint was about to continue his journey from Narraghmore southwards down the valley of the Griese, a woman named Briga, a Palladian Christian who dwelt at "Glais Eile," *i.e.* (Glashealy), three miles from Moone, came to him and besought him to change his route, saying she had secret information that the sons of Laighis, who dwelt at Mugna (Moone), had prepared "watery pits in the way, and a covering over them."

Then said the attendants, "For God's sake, drive on your horses." "In the name of God, drive on," said the saint, and no injury came to them. But he cursed the sons of Laighis, the men of Mugna (Moone), and said, there should never be a bishop nor a king of their race, and a foreign lord should rule over them for ever.

The large rath at Moone was probably the stronghold of this tribe.

The next reference we have to Moone is in time of St. Columbkille. This illustrious saint, unlike St. Patrick, was a pure Celt by birth and education, and was never out of these islands. He was born A.D. 521 at Gartan, a wild district of Donegal, where an ancient oratory still marks the place of his birth. By his fathers he was related to the Nials, kings of Ulster, and by his mother to the Cormacs, kings of Leinster, and finally he died first Abbot of Iona, A.D. 597.

During his forty years of missionary labour in Ireland he was said to have founded over 300 churches, one being Moin-colum-cille (Moone), where there is a well dedicated to him, and where "patrons" were held on his festival day till about seventy years ago, when the custom was discontinued.

The original monastery was probably a rude oratory, built of wattles, plastered with clay, around which were a number of detached huts, similarly constructed, in each of which lived a monk. It was not till many years later that they lived in communities. A wall or rampart of earth generally surrounded and was a defence to the monastery.

The saint by whom the monastery was first founded, owing to the tribal system which prevailed, had to make arrangements with the local chief by which he (the saint) became—

(1) The temporal chief of the clan; (2) Abbot of the monks; and (3) Bishop of the communities. If, however, he were not himself consecrated it was necessary to engage the services of a bishop.

Upon the death of the founder the institution was governed by his co-arb or heir, who enjoyed all the rights of the original chieftain, as well as the abbatial authority of the saint. At first the temporal and spiritual officers were generally divided, the spiritual co-arb being elected by the monks.

The family of the monastery comprised the monks, clansmen, vassals, and serfs, living on the territory of the co-arb. These often were very numerous, as appears from the accounts of the battle fought between the families of the monks of Clonmacnoise and Durrow, in the year 764.

The produce of the farms, the rents and tributes of the tenants, were collected by an officer called Erenach.

The *Œconomus*, or houseman, looked after the internal domestic economy of the monastery, superintended the labours of the monks, and saw the establishment supplied with food and other necessaries. The monastery thus organised afforded safety and security to its members.

Such was probably the monastery of Moone in those days, and such are many of the monasteries in Egypt and Syria to the present day, as described by Curzon in his "Monasteries of the Levant."

St. Mosenog, in the sixth century, is stated to have been bishop of "Mugna" (Moone), and Glais Eile (Glashealy).

Colgan, in his "Trias Thaumaturga," p. 48, ch. 14, refers to a certain "Mail-Poil," abbot of "Mugna" (Moone).—*L.P.*, p. 425.

In the "Book of Ballymote" there is reference to a great yew-tree, which grew at Mugna (Moone), "whose top was as broad as a plain, and which had grown there since the days of the flood, and which was held in great veneration by the Pagans, who celebrated under its shade their heathen rites"; and a poem is even said to have been written by a bard named Ninne. He is believed to have been one of the sons of Dubhtach, a cousin of St. Fiacc, with whom St. Patrick left him as presbyter.

He was called Ninne-Eccs, *i.e.* Ninne the Poet, and in the "Book of Ballymote" it is stated that he cut down the Eo, Mugna (yew-tree of Moone), in the time of Domhnall, son of

Dunchadle, king of Ireland, who requested him to do so.—  
A.D. 537.

In the poem referred to Ninne says :—

Eo Mugna was a great tree ;  
Its thickness was 30 spaces ;  
Hidden was it for a time ;  
Thirty fathoms was its height.

The “Annals of the Four Masters” refer to Moone :—

1014 A.D. (*recte* 1015, O’Donovan).—Colum-ua-Flanagan, Abbot of Moin Cholum Cille (Moone), died.

1040 A.D. — Moin Cholum Cille (Moone), Disert-Diarmada (Castledermot), Mugna-Moshanoc (Dunmanogue), Cluain-More-Maidhog (Clonmore, Co. Carlow) were plundered by Diarmaid, son of Mael-na-mbo, Lord of Hy-Censellagh (a native district comprising Co. Wexford and part of Co. Carlow), and he carried off many prisoners from the oratories.

In fact the Irish chieftains revered only their tribal monks and churches; all others they treated quite as badly as did the Danes in former days.

1225 A. D. — Henry of London, Archbishop of Dublin, granted the church of “Mone,” Columbkil, with its appended chapels, to the cathedral of St. Patrick.

The following chapels were subservient to it :—

Ardscul, Birtown, Killelan (afterwards granted to monastery of Graney), and Cordugan, *alias* Ardergan (a place not identified).

The Abbey at this time must have been one of much importance.

It was Henry of London who joined the diocese of Glendalough to that of Dublin, and, in 1220, made St. Patrick’s, previously a parish church, into a cathedral; so there were then in Dublin two cathedrals—Christ Church, the old one, and St. Patrick’s, the new one.

Archbishop Henry and the Abbot of Christ Church had some discussion, so the bishop decided to have a cathedral in which he could do as he pleased.

There is, in Archbishop Alan’s Register, a deed whereby William, Earl of Pembroke (son-in-law of Strongbow), acknowledges an agreement made by Strongbow with Archbishop Henry of London relative to the church of Moone.

He signifies his approval of the presentation of William de Insula to a prebend of fifteen marks, upon which he (the Earl) was to resign the patronage of Moone Abbey Church, the per-

petual advowson of a prebend of that value being confirmed to him and his heirs.—*Al. Reg.*, fol. 197, T.C.D.

1227 A.D.—William, Earl of Pembroke, by deed dated at Kilkenny, 16th of March, 2nd of Henry III., assigned to Economy of St. Patrick's, the tithes of his mills at Moone, excepting of such corn as was ground for his own use.—*Al. Reg.*

Bishop Henry died A.D. 1228.

In 1640 the Dean and Chapter of St. Patrick's leased the tithes, great and small, of Moone to John Pue, for 21 years, for £30 per annum.

1645 A.D.—The tithes, with those of Rathallagh, were leased to Archdeacon Wm. Buckeley for 21 years, for £31 10s. He was bound to repair the chancel of Moone church, and keep a curate there.

1670 A.D.—Richard Buckeley got another lease of same tithes, except Rathallagh, he to pay £20 a-year, and set aside one-third for maintenance of a curate.

An Inquisition held in Dublin, 38th of Henry VIII., reported the yearly value of the tithes of Moone to be—

		£	s.	d.
	Moone, . . . . .	5	6	8
	prts of Byrtown and Lilliot, . . . . .	2	10	0
	,, Byrtown and Ardscole, . . . . .	2	10	0
	,, Ardscole, Ballynervin, and such country, besides alter- ages assigned to a curate, . . . . .	2	3	4
		£12 10 0		

By an inquisition held at Naas, June 13, 1625, it appears that Thomas Eustace, lately of Mullagheosh, Co. Kildare, was seized in fee of half of the town and lands of Moone, Symonstown, Commonstown, Kilbeaghan, which are portions of the town(land) of Moone, aforesaid, and contain 200 acres.

Said Thomas Eustace, by deed dated May 21st, 1584, granted all aforesaid premises to Christopher Flattesbury, lately of Johnstown; Walter Eustace, lately of Balegrillon; Oliver Eustace, lately of Blackhall; William Talbot, lately of Robertstown; and John Sutton, of Tipper; and their heirs, for certain uses set forth in said deed.

The "Monasticon Hib.," p. 28, speaks of Moone as a monastery of conventual Franciscans.

1609 A.D. — "The Franciscan monastery of Moone was repaired."

It had probably suffered during rebellion of Hugh O'Neill, 1598.

It is strange that Moone Abbey should have been a monastery at this date, as the nunnery in Timolin, adjoining Moone, had been suppressed in 1538, unless it was spared for public worship until other arrangements could be made.

There were, according to Ware,\* at the time of Henry VIII., 563 monasteries of various Orders in Ireland, of which the Cistercians and Augustinians were the most numerous.

“The value of the moveable property in the various religious houses in Ireland was estimated at £100,000, but after the suppression of these houses the whole amount accounted for by Sir William Brabazon was only £2709 14s. 9½*d.*”—*State Papers*, Henry VIII. vol. ii. Part III., p. 438.

This Sir William Brabazon, on March 22nd, 6th of Edward VI., conveyed to Andrew Wise and Anne Brabazon, of Dublin, his daughter, *inter alia*, the tithes of Moone:—

$\frac{2}{3}$  of tithes of Byrtown and Sylcot Hill.

$\frac{1}{3}$  of tithes of Byrtown and Ardscoll (Aedscull), *Al. Reg.*

After the Dissolution the active, useful life of the monasteries ended. Since then the abbey has gradually decayed and been demolished by the hand of time and of man, and (up to fifty years ago) its walls were used as a convenient quarry.

The land round the abbey was rich, and yielded to the monks and their lay brethren an abundant store of all that was required for their support, and some to spare. At last, in the words of the poet:—

“The long-ribbed aisles are burst and shrunk,  
The holy shrines to ruin sunk;  
Departed is the pious monk:  
God’s blessing on his soul.”

The old abbey, of which the ruin now remains, was probably built in the thirteenth or fourteenth century on the old Columban foundation by the Franciscan Friars when they got possession of it, as we find that Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, Lord of Offally, founded a Franciscan monastery at Clane, county Kildare, A.D. 1258.

There was another monastery of same Order at Castledermot. The house of this Order at Moone may possibly have been established about same date. It would seem the Normans had a great contempt for Irish saints, and supplanted them whenever they could. The sketch here given of the abbey church is

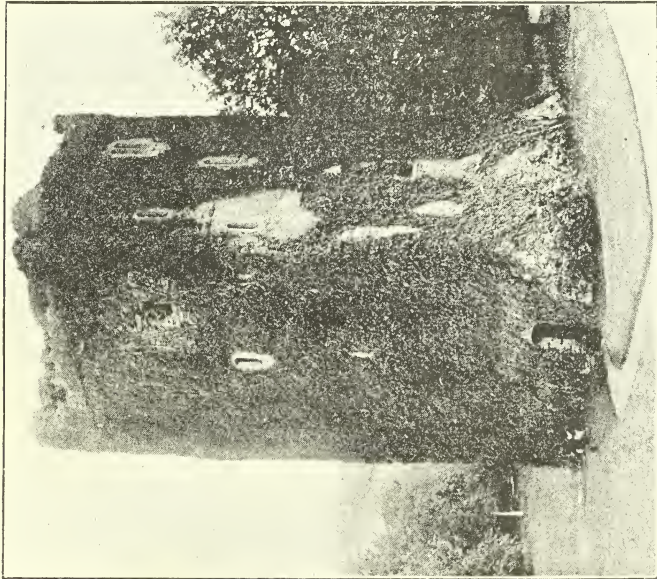
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\* Sir James Ware, born 1594, died 1666, was member for the Dublin University; wrote on Irish Antiquities, &c.





ST. COLUMBKILL'S WELL, MOONE ABBEY.



MOONE CASTLE.







THE CROSS AT MOONE ABBEY.

copied from an old print of one taken by Austin Cooper, and dated 1784.

The church was a long, narrow building, 110 feet by 18 feet. In centre was a square belfry or keep, and the eastern end of church was apparently adapted for defence, a precaution necessary in those disturbed times. Adjoining north-east wall was the "Lady's Chapel."

The belfry fell some eighty years ago; and the "Lady's Chapel" and north wall of church were pulled down about sixty years ago, and the materials used for building a farmyard adjoining.

St. Columbkil's well is a few perches from the abbey, on the low ground at back of farmyard, and here patrons were formerly held.

There is a tradition that the bells of the abbey (said to have been silver) were hidden in the "Buggawn," a marshy piece of land adjoining the river, and close to the abbey.

The old name of the monastery was "Moin Cholumcill," Moin, Mone, Mugna, are all Irish words, signifying a marsh or bog."

#### MOONE ABBEY CROSS.

This cross was found about 1835 buried in Moone Abbey Churchyard, near south-eastern wall of old abbey church, and since its restoration, measures  $17\frac{1}{3}$  feet from platform to summit. The material is granite, which must have been brought from Castledermot, the nearest place where the stone can be obtained, four miles from Moone.

On the face of this cross is the figure of Our Saviour crucified, with arms extended, and a fish, like a dolphin, over his head. The rest of the shaft has small, square panels, enclosing simple figures of animals and geometrical ornaments.

#### *On upper part of base.*

1. The Crucifixion. The figure of Our Saviour on Irish crosses is draped. The only accessories are two soldiers, one with a spear, and the other with a sponge on a reed or spear. It is not stated in the Gospel of St. John, who alone of the Four Evangelists describes this incident, which side was pierced, but on Irish crosses it is generally shown on left side; on Moone Abbey cross it is the right side.

This also occurs in a representation of the Crucifixion on some metal plates in the Royal Irish Academy.

2. Temptation of Adam and Eve. It was the fall that rendered the atonement necessary.
3. Two figures on thrones facing each other, with a circular disc between them, and a bird over it.
4. Three figures under an arch, with a four-winged angel above—probably the three children in fiery furnace.

*Base.*

1. On front single panel, twelve figures arranged in three rows. The Twelve Apostles.
2. On back, two panels: upper one, the Sacrifice of Isaac; lower one, Daniel in lions' den—seven lions.
3. Side panels, west: upper, the Flight into Egypt; lower, Five Loaves and Fishes.
4. Panels east side: Man between two figures, with human bodies, and heads like goats or sheep; lower panel: four serpents and two beasts interlaced.

Daniel in the den of lions is found frequently in paintings in the Catacombs at Rome, the most ancient example being of the second or third century in cemetery of Domitilla.

The lions on Moone Cross are seven, the number given in the Vulgate. This is also the number given in an ancient MS. called "The Greek Painter's Guide from Mount Athos."

Enthroned figures.—No satisfactory explanation has been given of this symbol; but several similar ones are on pre-Norman sculptured stones in England, Scotland, and the Isle of Man. Sometimes the disc is held in the mouth of a bird, as on the cross at Kells.

According to Miss Stokes there are forty-five high crosses in Ireland, of which thirty-two are richly ornamented.

In some cases these crosses in Ireland were Commemoration Crosses, and the legend is that Moone Cross was erected to St. Columkill; in others they marked the boundary of the sanctuary, and were then placed north, south, east, and west.

There are at Moone certainly the bases of four crosses, not sculptured, and of different sizes, and fragments of a shaft finely carved.

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NOTE.—In the preparation of this Paper I was most kindly assisted by notes given me by Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, Lord Walter FitzGerald, and Rev. James Carroll, c.c., Howth, to all of whom my best thanks are due.



BASE OF CROSS AT MOONE ABBEY.







## THE AYLMER FAMILY.

BY HANS HENDRICK AYLMER, OF KERDIFFSTOWN.

### I.

#### THE ENGLISH AYLMEES.

**T**HE Aylmers deduce their descent from Athelemar or Ailmer, Earl of Cornwall, who lived in the reign of Ethelred (979–1016).<sup>\*</sup> Athelmar, descended from Ethelred the brother of Alfred the Great, founded the Benedictine Abbey of Eynsham in Oxfordshire before 1005. Nicholas Aylmer, patron of Eynsham, was living there some two centuries after; and his descendants lived in Herefordshire and Shropshire. In later times the Aylmers were found chiefly in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Leicester. In 1497, Sir Laurence Aylmer was last on the list of knights made after the battle of Blackheath. In 1557 Sir George Aylmer of South Badeley, Hampshire, was one of about twenty appointed commanders of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John.

The most celebrated of the English family was John Aylmer, a brother of Sir Robert Aylmer, of Aylmer's Hall, Norfolk. This John Aylmer was Bishop of London, and his life is given in "Strype's Lives of the Bishops."

Born in 1521, he became Archdeacon of Stowe in 1553. He was tutor to Lady Jane Grey. On account of his connexion with that unfortunate princess and his attachment to the principles of the Reformation, he was exiled by Queen Mary in

<sup>\*</sup> Burke's Peerage. O'Hart gives the family a Celtic origin. He says: "The name appears to be an Anglicised form of the Irish O'Aillemar, meaning the descendants of Aillemar, the very handsome and sprightly man."

1554, but returned to England after her death, and became Archdeacon of Lincoln in 1562. He was one of those who prepared the XXXIX. Articles of Religion, which he subscribed on their promulgation in 1562. In 1576 he was raised to the See of London. For nearly twenty years he took a prominent part in the religious and political questions of the day. He died at Fulham Palace in 1594, and was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral. The following story is told of him by Strype:—Queen Elizabeth had suffered from toothache, but steadily refused to have the tooth extracted. In order to dissipate her fears the Bishop ordered the dentist to pull out one of his teeth, and bore the operation without flinching, thus inducing his mistress to adopt the same course." The family of the Bishop had for their arms—Argent a cross sable between four choughs of the same. The motto is—Hallelujah! from a tradition that an Aylmer of the old Saxon race—who had crossed into Wales and Christianized the people of a chief whose daughter he had married—used to make his men kneel and pray, and then rush to combat, shouting "Hallelujah."

## II.

### THE IRISH AYLMEERS.

Of the Irish branch of the family, O'Hart says, "The name Ailmer is mentioned as being settled in the County Kildare immediately after the English invasion."

Several centuries after this the Aylmers spread to Clare and Limerick, where they were "one of the chief families of Anglo-Norman and early English settlers."\*

The senior branch of the family, however, was seated at Lyons in the County Kildare in the year 1300, and continued to live there till the end of the eighteenth century. Several branches have sprung from this original stem. Of these the last to separate, and therefore the senior branch next to the Lyons family, is that of the Aylmers of Ballykenane, better known as the Aylmers of Courtown. This branch separated about the year 1600. A second branch, the Aylmers of Donadea, is sprung from Sir Gerald Aylmer, third son of Richard Aylmer of Lyons. It separated one generation earlier. Two generations earlier still, about 1658, Sir Gerald Aylmer, a younger son of Bartholomew Aylmer of Lyons founded the Meath branch of the family. This line is now represented by Adolphus,

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\* O'Hart, "Irish Pedigrees."

seventh Lord Aylmer and tenth Baronet. It no longer owns lands in Meath, and has been for several generations resident in Canada.

Down to the troubles of 1641-42 the Aylmers were found supporting English authority. They had then to take part in a struggle between Roman Catholic and Protestant, Royalism and Republicanism, and later between Jacobites and Williamites, and experienced the vicissitudes of those times. On February 1, 1641-42, the Lords Justices sent out the Earl of Ormonde into the County of Kildare where, pursuant to orders, he burnt the castles of Newcastle and Lyons and pillaged Naas.\* The greater part of Donadea, the other chief seat of the Kildare Aylmers, was burnt to the ground when it was besieged in 1641, and bravely defended by Lady Ellen Aylmer,† a sister of the Earl of Ormonde. Balrath, the castle of the Meath Aylmers, was pillaged by Sir H. Titchbourne, and underwent a second siege when it was retaken by the Irish under General Owen O'Neill in 1643. Captain Gerald Aylmer, its owner, father of the first baronet of Balrath, was attainted. James Aylmer of Dollardstown was outlawed, and so was Matthew Aylmer of Ballykenane for being "concerned in the rebellion of 1641." Thus every branch of the family suffered, and the Lyons, Donadea, and Balrath branches had their castles destroyed; Dollardstown was confiscated, and never returned into Aylmer hands.

A bloody war having been carried on for two years with varied success, a "cessation" of arms was agreed to (1643), pending the civil war in England and the propositions of the king. The negotiations about this cessation took place at Jigginstown, near Naas, between the Marquis of Ormonde on the part of the Government and the representatives appointed by the Supreme Council of Kilkenny for the Irish. The Lord Justices ordered that the Irish representatives and their retinues not exceeding three score persons, should lodge at Hartwell‡ (near Kill) in the county Kildare, then the property of George Aylmer; and for the damage occasioned thereby they licensed the said Aylmer, and his wife, and servants, to receive recompense from them for the same. There are still remains of the old castle of Hartwell, which must have been a place of some size and importance to have had a garrison of soldiers, and to have given accommodation to sixty persons.

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\* Carte's "Ormond," vol. i., 277.

† Her husband, Sir Andrew Aylmer, was at the time a prisoner in Dublin.

‡ "Here was formerly a castellated mansion surrounded by a fosse."—Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary."

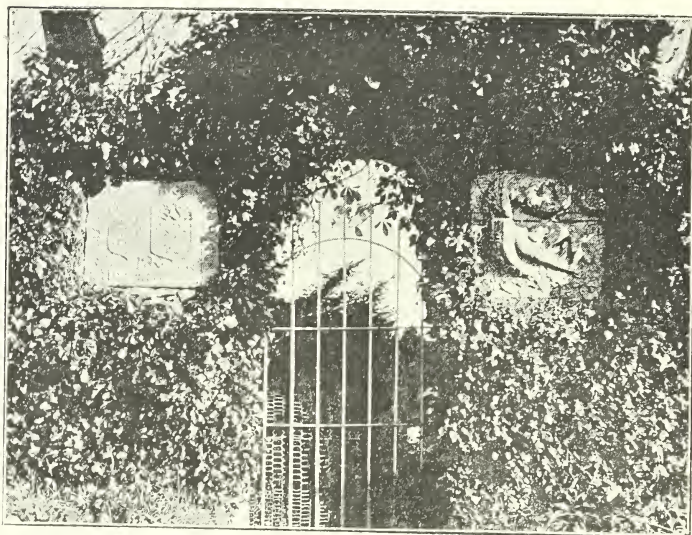
Much as the Aylmers had suffered by the war they were to suffer more after the beheading of the king and the advent of Cromwell. We find in an official return made to Cromwell in 1656 by Christopher Gough of the proprietors who had forfeited their estates, three Aylmers in the barony of Newcastle, two in the barony of Ikeathy and Oughterany, and one in the barony of Salt. Thomas Aylmer of Coreraunstown (1653-4) was transplanted to Connaught. The Meath Aylmers suffered equally severely. Many of them fled to France, some joining the Irish Brigade in the French service, and others that in the service of Spain. On the Restoration many of them returned with the king. In the Act of Settlement (1662) the clause of Royal thanks "for services rendered beyond the seas" contained the name of Captain Garret Aylmer. Garret Aylmer and his son Christopher of Balrath were evidently in the Royal favour. The former received a pardon under the Great Seal (1662) for his conduct at the outbreak of the rebellion in 1641, and the latter was created a baronet in 1662.

A few years of peace succeeded the Restoration. During this period the Duke of Ormonde was Viceroy of Ireland, and, perhaps, the fact that he was brother-in-law of Sir Andrew Aylmer of Donadea may, in part, account for the Aylmer family recovering a good of their property. But the Revolution again brought troubles. The Aylmers were nearly all Jacobites, and fought for James II. against William III. Thus we read:—"In the rebellion of 1689 there were engaged on King James's side Lieutenant-Colonel George Aylmer of Lyons, Gerald Aylmer, Major in Lord Abercorn's troop of horse; Captain George Aylmer; Lieutenant Peter Aylmer. In the confiscations of this time Garret and George Aylmer of Lyons were attainted, with six others of the name, several of whom were Aylmers of Ballykenane. Two Aylmers of Balrath, Matthew and George, having become Protestants, fought on the other side.

### 1. The Aylmers of Lyons.

As already mentioned the head of the Aylmers in Ireland settled at Lyons in the county Kildare. In the Close Rolls of 1422 and in the Patent Rolls of the same year there are appointments of Richard Aylmer of Lyons to be "one of the keepers of the peace" of the counties of Dublin and Kildare. In 1432 the same Aylmer was constituted sovereign of Tassagard. He was seized of the manor of Lyons and the lands of Kill.





THE AYLMER STONE AT LYONS CHURCHYARD.  
 (Reduced from a rubbing taken by Lord Walter FitzGerald.)

Bartholomew Aylmer of Lyons was High Sheriff of Kildare in 1495. His second son, Sir Gerald Aylmer, was Lord Chief Justice of Ireland.

Richard Aylmer of Lyons (nephew to Sir Gerald Aylmer) married Elinor, only daughter of George Fleming by Margaret sister of Piers, Earl of Ormonde. A stone still lies in the churchyard at Lyons with their names inscribed. Her eldest son was Thomas; second son, George, of Cloncurrie and Trim; third son, Sir Gerald Aylmer, Knt., created a baronet in 1621, the first of the Aylmers of Donadea. Thomas Aylmer of Lyons had a large family, of whom the second son was Richard Aylmer of Hartwell; and the third John A. of Ballykenane, the founder of the Aylmers of Courtown.

Lieut.-Col. George Aylmer of Lyons, already mentioned, was a member for the county Kildare in King James's Parliament of 1689; he probably took part in the battles of the Boyne and Aughrim, and in the siege of Limerick, and was comprehended in the Statutes of Limerick in 1691 on the surrender of that place, thereby saving his estate of Lyons from confiscation. He died and was buried at Lyons in 1729. His son, Sir Gerald Aylmer, Knt., who served in King James's army, was taken prisoner at the siege of Derry, and exchanged, 1691. His second son Michael was the last Aylmer of Lyons, to which he succeeded while a minor. He married three times, all his wives being ladies of position and wealth. His third wife was Mary de Burgh, daughter of Thomas, brother of the tenth Earl of Clanrickarde, by whom he had a son who succeeded to the representation of the senior branch of the family, but not to its broad acres. The age of extravagance he lived in, and to which he was a victim, was instrumental in destroying a family which had survived the shocks of war and revolution. In December, 1796, Michael Aylmer, pressed by his debts, sold Lyons, which had belonged to his family for 500 years, and the rest of his lands, including the townland of Cloncurry, to Sir Nicholas Lawless, subsequently created Lord Cloncurry. His great grandson Gerald Joseph Aylmer is the present head of the Aylmer family.

## 2. The Aylmers of Ballykenane, and Courtown.

The Aylmers of Ballykenane come next in seniority to the Lyons family, being descended from John, third son of Thomas Aylmer of Lyons. A great grandson of this John Aylmer (Robert) was the first Aylmer of Painstown, which, however, passed by marriage in 1863 into the elder or Lyons branch.

To the Painstown Aylmers belonged William, one of the last of those soldiers of fortune whom Ireland has produced in such abundance. He was the intimate friend of Lord Edward Fitz Gerald, by whom he was persuaded to join the United Irishmen. Upon the arrest of Lord Edward, William Aylmer was given the command of the rebels in Kildare. "After the massacre at Gibbet Rath on the Curragh the insurgents maintained for many weeks, under the skilful generalship of Aylmer a fugitive and partizan warfare, cutting off the enemy's supplies, storming their outposts, and harassing their marches with a fertility and boldness of invention, and a rapidity of execution which overcame all disadvantages. On June 10th he attacked and took possession of Maynooth, driving out the Government forces under the Duke of Leinster. It was under his command that the rebels burnt Courtown, and would have burnt Donadea but for the information that their own friends had lodged many valuable articles in it for safe custody. Aylmer did not lay down his arms until the complete and final suppression of the rebellion. He ultimately capitulated to General Dundas, and was pardoned, on condition of going into exile.

William Aylmer entered the Austrian service and rose to the rank of Colonel of Cavalry, and commanded the escort that accompanied Marie Louise from Paris to Vienna after the fall of Napoleon. He also visited London in the suite of the Emperor of Austria in 1814. Many years afterwards he was selected by the Emperor to instruct the British cavalry in the Austrian system of tactics, and was presented by the Prince of Wales with a splendid sword of honour.

When universal peace was established Colonel Aylmer left the Austrian army and took service under General Bolivar. He was wounded in the battle of Rio de la Hache, and died at Jamaica in the summer of 1820.

At the time that William Aylmer of the Painstown branch was leading the Irish insurgents, Michael Aylmer, head of the Ballycannon family, was a colonel of artillery, and took such an active part against the rebels that they burnt his houses of Ballycannon and Courtown.\* Colonel Aylmer received from the State as compensation for house, furniture, clothes, horses, corn, &c., the sum of £2212 3s. 11d. His only son John built Courtown. He married Margaret Susan, daughter of Sir Fenton Aylmer of Donadea. He died in 1857.

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\* Sir Fenton Aylmer received as compensation £1120 6s. 6½d.







THE AYLMER MONUMENT AT DONADEA.

### 3. The Aylmers of Donadea Castle.

Donadea originally belonged to the Bermingham family, but it came at an early date into the possession of the Aylmers. When Gerald Aylmer was knighted in 1598 he resided at Donadea, it having been bestowed on him by Richard Aylmer of Lyons. He was a lawyer, and in 1583 went to England as solicitor, for the chiefs of the pale, noblemen and gentlemen of Meath, to Queen Elizabeth, for redress of the "intolerable charge of cess." For the part he took in this remonstrance Gerald Aylmer was imprisoned, and on June 14, 1588, petitioned the Lord Treasurer, setting forth his grievous imprisonment of ninety days, and praying that he may be referred to Ireland for further punishment, if it be needful. In 1591 Gerald Aylmer, having again gone to London, without leave, on behalf of the Roman Catholic gentry, was imprisoned in the Marshalsea. Notwithstanding this, he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 1598. Under James I. Sir Gerald Aylmer was again agent for the chiefs of the Pale in the dispute regarding the cess, and the arrangement made in the reign of Queen Elizabeth was then confirmed. In 1621 King James made him a baronet. He died in 1624, leaving his son Sir Andrew Aylmer. Sir Andrew married Lady Ellen Butler, sister of the Duke of Ormonde, who took the politics of her husband, and when he was in prison under torture in Dublin Castle, bravely defended his castle of Donadea when it was besieged and the greater part of it burnt by the royal forces. After his release Sir Andrew took no active part in politics, and the Act of Settlement preserved to him all his properties and rights. He died in 1662. The period of the Restoration and the years succeeding it were favourable to the fortunes of the Donadea family. Not only were their old estates restored, and the estates of Allen and Culdiffe bestowed upon them; but in 1670 Sir FitzGerald Aylmer received a specific grant of 9000 acres in Kildare, and 1600 acres in Sligo. Many of these lands were, however, sold in 1705 on account of the debts of Sir Justine Aylmer the fifth baronet. Sir FitzGerald Aylmer, seventh baronet, born the year of his father's death, was brought up as a Protestant, under the sole care of his mother and her relations, who were all supporters of the House of Hanover. His son, Sir Fenton Aylmer, in 1804, purchased from Squire Connolly of Castletown the pack of foxhounds which the latter had been the first to introduce into Kildare. It was during his master-

ship that the catastrophe so well known to foxhunters occurred whereby the pack was destroyed in pursuing a fox down the Poulaphouca Waterfall.

#### 4. The Aylmers of Meath.

##### (1). *Of Dollardstown.*

This is the junior branch of the family, but the first in point of dignity. Its founder was Sir Gerald Aylmer, Knight, Lord Chief Justice of Ireland. Its seat was Dollardstown, Meath, from 1539 till that place was confiscated to the Crown for the rebellion of its owner in 1641.

Sir Gerald Aylmer, the first of the Meath family, was appointed by Henry VIII. Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, 1532. It is related that when the king desired to promote him the Earl of Shrewsbury opposed his preferment, representing him as an ignorant man and unfit for office. At the request of his minister Cromwell, however, the king had discourse with him, and, asking him, among other things, the true reason of the decay of Ireland, Aylmer answered that it was because the estated men who used to reside and defend their lands and tenants did now generally dwell in England, and left Ireland a prey to the natives, but that if his Highness would oblige them to residence or seize their estates to his own use if they did not, he would soon find a reformation. The result of this advice was the Act of Absentees in 1536, whereby, among others, the Earl of Shrewsbury forfeited his estates. This Chief Justice Aylmer was one of the commanders of the force which in the rebellion of "Silken Thomas" burnt the town of Maynooth in 1535, and was sent to England by the Lord Deputy, in charge of the five Geraldines who, with their nephew the tenth Earl of Kildare, were hung, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn. In 1539 he accompanied the Lord Deputy in expedition against O'Neill, and was knighted on the field of battle for his service and valour, and received the grant of the manor and Lordship of Dollardstown.

James, the sixth in descent from Sir Gerald Aylmer, was the last Aylmer of Dollardstown. He was outlawed for high treason, committed in 1641, and his property forfeited. Many of the family who suffered for their share in this rebellion had their lands restored to them; but Dollardstown was never restored.

(2). *Of Seneschalstown.*

A brother of the last Aylmer of Dollardstown, however, retained Seneschalstown, part of the property originally bestowed by the Crown upon Sir Gerald. His descendants continued in possession of it till a recent date, but gradually sank in the social scale. If any of this family still exist they represent the senior line of the Meath Aylmers.

(3). *Of Balrath.*

Garret Aylmer of Balrath, a younger son of the Dollardstown family, took part in organizing the Rebellion of 1641, and was imprisoned and tortured in Dublin Castle, and his house pillaged and burnt. Being outlawed, his property was forfeited, but in 1662 he received a pardon under the Great Seal and was restored to his estates. His son Christopher was created a baronet in 1662. Matthew, the second son of this Christopher Aylmer, had been employed in the reign of Charles II. in raising soldiers in Munster to be transported into Holland for service against the French. We next hear of him in the navy under George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham. In 1690 he was captain of the "Royal Catherine" (82 guns) in the battle of Beachy Head, and afterwards commanded a squadron off the coast of Ireland. He fought in the glorious battle of Cape la Hogue, 1692. For his distinguished services in this battle Matthew Aylmer was made Rear-Admiral of the Red, and in 1698 Commander-in-Chief of the Mediterranean fleet. The peace of Ryswick, which had just been signed, deprived him of any chance of adding further to his laurels, and he retired next year from active service, and became M.P. for Dover which he represented till his death. In 1701 he was made Governor of Deal Castle; in 1709, Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, and Admiral and Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet; in 1718 he was raised to the Peerage of Ireland by the title of Baron Aylmer and Baron of Balrath.

Queen Mary, in recognition of the services of the fleet at the battle of Cape la Hogue, had ordered the Royal Palace of Greenwich to be converted into an hospital for disabled seamen, and Lord Aylmer was made first Governor of Greenwich and Ranger of Greenwich Park.

Rose Whitworth Aylmer, whose beauty is celebrated by the poet Lauder, was daughter of Henry, the fourth baron. She

died at Calcutta, aged twenty. Four years earlier she had lent Landor a book which supplied him with the idea of "Gebir"; and it was the news of her premature death which inspired the lines:—

Ah! what avails the sceptred race.  
 Ah! what the form divine!  
 What, every virtue, every grace,  
 Rose Aylmer, all were thine.  
 Rose Aylmer, whom these watchful eyes,  
 May weep, but never see,  
 A night of memories and sighs  
 I consecrate to thee.

Rose Aylmer's brother Matthew, fifth Lord Aylmer, distinguished himself in the army under Wellington, and was made a K. C. B. To him succeeded his brother Frederick William, who made a good figure in the navy and fought in the battle of the Nile, and was made admiral and K. C. B. 1837.

He died unmarried in 1858, and the barony and baronetcy devolved upon a distant cousin Adolphus Aylmer. This branch of the family had emigrated to Canada (where a lake and town bear the name); but its members, not unmindful of the family traditions, continue loyally to serve their country.

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NOTE.

The foregoing sketch of the Aylmer family has been condensed from a paper, part of which was read before the Kildare Archæological Society, at Naas, in January, 1894. In making the abstract I have been obliged to omit much that is of interest and importance in the family history, but what is given is, as far as possible, in the very words of the original paper, though it has necessarily lost much of its freshness.—  
 W. SHERLOCK, *Editor*.

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ADDENDA.

THE AYLMER-FLEMING COATS-OF-ARMS ON THE SCULPTURED  
 STONE AT LYONS, CO. KILDARE.

The heraldic right-hand shield bears the Fleming, Barons of Slane, coat, viz. :—

"Vair, a chief chequy, or and gules."

The other shield is :—

“ —, a fesse (apparently ‘diapered’) between three crosses pattée —, on a chief —, a quadruped rampant —.”

This is intended to represent the Tyrrell coat-of-arms, viz. :—

“ Gules, a fesse between three crosses crosslet argent, on a chief of the 2nd a demi lion rampant sable.”

An ancestor of the Richard Aylmer named on the stone, five generations back, married Helen, daughter of John Tyrrell (*vide* Archdall’s “Lodge,” vol. vii., p. 44).

In Ulster’s Office is a grant of arms, in Latin, by Bartholomew Butler, who was Ulster King-at-Arms from 1552 to 1566, to Bartholomer Aylmer of the Lyons, wherein the Aylmer coat is shown as quartering that of the Tyrrell family, viz. :—

1 and 4 argent, a chevron embattled counter-embattled, between three demi lions coupé azure.

2 and 3 the Tyrrell coat as given above.

It is strange that, in spite of this grant of arms, the Aylmers never seem to have adopted it.

The stone measures 32 inches in length, and 26 inches in height.

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#### THE AYLMER MONUMENT AT DONADEA.

This monument takes the form of an altar-tomb with a high reredos; its full height is  $14\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and in width across that portion containing the kneeling figures  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet; the material is partly limestone and partly sandstone. Its present position is in a recess on the south side of the chancel attached to the Protestant church; a tablet on it, bearing these words, records its re-erection :—

This Monument was  
Removed from the old  
Church Novber 1812 by  
Sir Fenton Aylmer, Bart

Below this again, on two tablets side by side, is incised :—

STAY PASSENGER THY HASTIE FOOTE.  
 THIS STONE DELIVERS THEE.  
 AMESSADGE FROM THE FAMOVS TWIN. (twaine)  
 THAT HERE IN TOMBED BE.

LIVE WELL FOR VIRTVE PASSETH WELTH.  
 AS WE DOE FINDE IT NOW.  
 RICHES BEAVTIE AND WORLDLIE STATE.  
 MVST ALL TO VIRTVE BOW.

In the arches over the heads of the kneeling figures, also incised, run the following inscriptions:—

PRAY FOR THE SOVLE  
 OF DAME IVLIA NVGNT<sup>E</sup>  
 DAGHTER TO SR CHRISTOPHER  
 NVGENT LP BARRON OF DELVEN &  
 WIFE TO SR GERALD AYLMER KNIGHT & BARRON  
 BY WHOME HE HAD ISSVE ANDREW  
 AYLMER & IVLIA AYLMER<sup>& SHE</sup> DECEASED THE  
 10 . OF NOVEMBE<sup>R</sup> ANNO . DOM . 1617 :

—

THE INSCRIPTE  
 PRAY FOR THE SOVLE OF  
 SR GERALD AYLMER KNIGHT &  
 BARRONETT WHOE BVYLT THIS CHA  
 PPELL TOMBE & MONVMENT & WTH<sup>I</sup>  
 ALL THE CHVRCH & CHANCLL AD  
 IOYNING THER VNT0 ANNO . D<sup>O</sup> . 1626 :  
 DISCEASED THE 19<sup>T</sup>H OF AVGST<sup>A</sup> O . DOMINI 1634



The altar-tomb portion of the monument is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height. Four standing figures occupy as many niches in the long side; overhead is inscribed the name of each, viz. :—

ST HIEROM : S. GREGORIE : S. AMBROS : and S. AVGVSTIN :

The subjects in the end sides are—the Blessed Virgin in one, and the Crucifixion in the other.

An engraving of this tomb is given at page 81, vol. ii., of the “Anthologia Hibernica Magazine” for 1793, but it gives no idea of the elaborate carving with which the tomb is covered.

Owing to its position a good photograph of the monument cannot be taken.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

*THOMAS HIBERNICUS\*, WHO FLOURISHED  
A. D. 1269, IN THE REIGN OF HENRY III.*

BY THE EARL OF MAYO.

**T**HOMAS PALMERSTON, commonly called Thomas Hibernicus, was born at Palmerstown, near Naas, in the county Kildare. Some account of him is found in vol. ii. of the works of Sir James Ware, Dublin: MDCCXLV., 2nd part, under the heading of "The writers of Ireland."

Nothing is known of this ancient writer's youth, but we learn from Ware that he forsook his country for the purpose of advancing himself in learning, and continued some time in Paris. He entered the College of the Sorbonne in that city, and became a fellow of that College.

The Sorbonne was a society of ecclesiastics, founded by Robert de Serbonne in 1252. The members lived in common, and devoted themselves to study and gratuitous teaching.

They attained a European reputation as a faculty of Theology, their judgment being frequently appealed to from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries. The society was broken up in 1789.

In 1366 Thomas took the degree of bachelor; whether he ever gained a higher degree is unknown. It is also uncertain how long he lived.

"The establishment of the great schools which bore the name of Universities was everywhere throughout Europe a special mark of the new impulse that Christendom had gained from the Crusades. A new fervour of study sprang up in the West from its contact with the more cultured East. The long mental inactivity of feudal Europe broke up like ice before a summer sun. The same spirit of restlessness, of inquiry, of impatience with the older traditions of mankind, either local or intellectual, that had hurried half Christendom to the Tomb of its Lord crowded the roads with thousands of young scholars hurrying to the chosen seats where teachers were gathered."

Thomas formed one of that throng bent on acquiring knowledge, and to his credit, and to the credit of our country,

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\* Otherwise called Thomas of Palmerstown.

he made a name for himself in the annals of his time, and a place in the history of those days of literary darkness.

We speak of the reign of Henry III. of England. At that period strife was raging in Ireland, and we cannot wonder that Thomas, longing for learning, should turn his back on massacres and pillage to seek a quieter and more peaceful existence in a foreign university.

It is debated by the writers of the Dominican Order whether he was a Franciscan or a Dominican; but Ware, after discussing all, comes to the conclusion Thomas was of no certain Order.

Wadding, in his "Script. Ord. Min." p. 326, tells an odd story of Thomas. He says he suffered many troubles by the illusions of the devil, and that it was reported he cut off his thumb lest he should be compelled by his superiors to take on him the priesthood.

The *magnum opus* of Thomas Hibernicus was entitled "Flores Doctorum fere omnium, qui tum in Theologia Hactenus claruerunt," *i.e.* flowers of, or extracts from, nearly all the doctors who have hitherto been famous in Theology and Philosophy. The title-page goes on to say, "Formerly collected with very great diligence, and placed in alphabetical order by Thomas Hibernicus." This book has often been printed: as at Antwerp, 1580, 8vo, and at Paris, Lyons, and lastly at Geneva in 1614. Thomas also wrote many other learned works.

After Thomas had worked hard at the Sorbonne, and no doubt there written many of his works, he travelled into Italy, where he settled at Aquila. Marian of Florence says that Thomas the Irishman flourished in the year 1270 at the monastery of Aquila, in what is now the province of St. Bernardin. There he ended his life, and lies buried in the monastery.

On his death-bed he bequeathed the books he had written, and also many other manuscripts to the College of Sorbonne.

The following is a passage from the Sorbonne Necrology:— "Master Thomas of Ireland, formerly a Fellow of this house died. He compiled Manipulum Florum, and three other small tracts which he sent to us, and bequeathed to us many other Books and six pounds in money, to pay a rent to be employed in celebrating his anniversary, *i.e.* to say in masses for his soul."

So ends what little we know of Thomas of Palmerstown. My excuse for bringing his somewhat obscure name to light again is that undoubtedly he is one of the oldest of our county writers.

*THE GRAVE OF BUAN, NEAR CLANE.*

BY THE REV. MATTHEW DEVITT,  
Rector of Clongowes College.

**T**HE detailed account of the tragic end of Buan, Queen of Leinster, in the first century of our era, is to be found in one of our ancient historic tales, entitled, "The Siege of Howth," copies of which are preserved in the Book of Leinster, and in a vellum MS. in the British Museum.

The story is shortly summarised by the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford in his chapter on the Parish of Clane,\* by Father Shearman in the "Loca Patriciana,"† and by O'Curry in his "Lectures on the MS. Materials of Ancient Irish History."‡ It has been expanded into an English poem of about 250 lines by the late Sir Samuel Ferguson,§ who has treated the subject with a good deal of poetic licence, but with deep feeling and exquisite taste.

An exact collation of the two MSS. above referred to, accompanied by a literal translation into English, has been printed by Professor Whitley Stokes, and to his labours I am largely indebted for the matter of this Paper.

About A.D. 33, when Conor Mac Nessa reigned in Ulster, Mesgegra, the husband of Buan, was King of Leinster, and resided at Naas. In ancient times it was customary for the poets or bards to leave at times the courts at which they permanently resided, and visit the other kingdoms of Erin. Wherever they went they were welcomed by a people passionately fond of poetry, and filled with religious veneration for the learning which the bard of those days was supposed to possess. As ambassadors, moreover, of their Royal patrons they were received by the reigning monarchs whom they visited with the highest tokens of respect, and with princely munificence. The laws of hospitality required that no request should be denied them, and an insult to the bard was an insult to the kingdom from which he came.

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\* "Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., p. 99. † Page 113, note.  
‡ Lecture xii., p. 270. § "Poems," published 1880.

At the time of our story *Aitherne*, the chief poet of Ulster, came from the court of Conor Mac Nessa to visit Mesgegra in Naas. It is to be hoped that this "minstrel of the north" was not a type of his class, and I greatly fear that the most patriotic student of his history will be tempted to believe that at least one of our ancestors was treated to a "double dose of original sin." He was known throughout Erin as Aitherne the *Importunate*. Greedy, arrogant, and cruel by disposition, he abused the hospitality of the princes and the people who entertained him, and, availing himself of the privileges of his position, made demands at which even Pagan morality revolted, and which could only be granted with great personal deprivation on the part of the giver, often involving acute physical pain, or what the men of those days seemed to have feared more—the dishonour of a noble house.

At Naas, as elsewhere, his demands, however outrageous, were complied with, and he set out for his northern home loaded with treasure, driving 700 kine before him, and accompanied by fifty captives, selected from the noblest families in Leinster.

The strange code of honour then prevalent secured him protection and respect while within the territory of his host. Outside that territory his privileges would cease, and his infamous behaviour be open to retribution. The men of Leinster did not hesitate to avail themselves of the letter of the law against a man who had so wantonly outraged its spirit. They escorted him to the frontier, where a bodyguard from Ulster awaited him. But when he had passed into the kingdom of Meath they pursued him, and drove him, with his escort, into a stronghold on the hill of Howth. Then took place the famous siege of Howth, which has given title to the tale above referred to. It ended in the triumph of Ulster, chiefly due to the prowess of two famous knights of the Red Branch, Cuchulainn and Conal Cernach, both celebrated champions in bardic lore. Mesgegra and his troops fled back to Leinster, completely routed. But Conal of the Red Branch had lost two of his brothers during the siege, and, thirsting for vengeance, pushed forward alone in pursuit of Mesgegra. On reaching Naas he found that the king had fled before him, and—whether still in pursuit, or intending to return to Ulster by that road, we are not informed—he turned his horses' heads towards Clane. At the ford of Clane he overtook Mesgegra. A duel ensued, in which the Leinster king fell. The Ulster champion carried off his head as a trophy, and proceeded on his journey to the north. And now the ill-fated Buan, the wife of

Mesgegra, appeared upon the scene. The unhappy queen was returning, according to O'Curry, from a visit to Tara, attended by forty-nine maidens. On the road she met the fierce northern warrior coming red-handed from the slaughter of her royal partner. He was driving his own chariot, and was followed by his charioteer in the captive chariot of her husband.

The following dialogue and scene I transcribe from Professor Stokes' translation of the original:—

“Whose art thou, O woman?” saith Conall.

“I am the wife of Mesgegra, the king.”

“It hath been enjoined on thee to come with me,” saith Conall.

“Who hath enjoined me?” saith the woman.

“Mesgegra,” saith Conall.

“Hast thou brought a token with thee?” saith the woman.

“His chariot and his horses here,” saith Conall.

“Many are they on whom he bestows treasures,” saith the woman.

“His head is here then,” saith Conall.

“I am lost to him now,” says the woman.

“Come thou with me,” says Conall, “into the chariot.”

“Stay for me,” she says, “till I bewail my husband.”

“Then,” continues the old bardic historian, “she lifted up her cry of lamentation, and it was heard even unto Tara and to Allen, and she cast herself backwards, and she was dead. On the road is her grave, even *Coll Buana* (that is) the hazel (coll) which grew through her grave.”

Where is the grave that covers the gentle dust of this broken-hearted lady? What spot of earth is consecrated by the ashes of her who tells us from her tomb how pure and tender and true was the heart of an Irish wife centuries before the introduction of Christianity into our land, and how naturally the branch that produced a Buan should blossom into a Dympna or a Brigid?

It seems to be commonly, but, as I hope to establish, erroneously held, that she lies with her husband beneath the moat or mound which is situated close to the mill and bridge of Clane. Father Shearman\* states that “the Queen arrived at Clane just as Mesgegra had been killed,” and continues, “the tumulus at the ford was erected over her grave.” The Most Rev. Dr. Comerford† does not express any opinion on the

\* “Loca Pat.” p. 113, note.

† “History of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin,” p. 99.

subject, but tells us that the "tumulus beside the river at Clane is supposed to mark the grave of Mesgegra and his Queen." Sir S. Ferguson evidently was of this opinion, as will be apparent to any reader of his poem, and in this he is followed by Mr. Lyster\* in his notes to the poem "Mesgegra," published in a "Select Book of Poetry for Young Students." O'Curry contents himself with remarking that the mound must be between Clane and Tara, and may still be known in the neighbourhood.

That the king is buried beneath the tumulus at Clane I have no doubt. The combat was fought close to the river, which we are told ran red with the blood of the combatants. It was fought on the northern side of the river, where the mound now stands. The stone on which his severed head was laid by Conall is, in Father Shearman's opinion, the well-known wartstone of Clane, which has since been moved nearer to the village.

But some sentences in the original text prove to me conclusively that the Queen neither died nor was buried at Clane. It thus describes what took place immediately after the death of Mesgegra:—"Then Conall went alone into his chariot, and his charioteer into Mesgegra's chariot. They go forward then into Uachtar-Finé, till they meet with fifty women, namely Mesgegra's wife, Buan, with her maidens, coming southwards from the border."

It is quite evident from this passage, and from the description of her death scene already quoted—1. That Buan died and was buried close to the spot where she met Conall Cernach. 2. That that spot is close to the road running north from Clane to the borders of Meath, most likely to Tara. 3. That it is within a territorial division altogether distinct from Clane, named Uachtar-Finé, and at some distance beyond the line that separated that territorial division from Clane. For the original says:—"They go forward *into* Uachtar-Finé, till they meet with 50 women."

The name *Uachtar-Finé* means the "The upper tribes," or territory, and still survives in *Oughteranney*,† the name of a barony generally called that of Ikealthy and Oughteranney, in the county of Kildare. This barony adjoins that of Clane, which lies immediately to the south, and the road to Kilcock and Meath that now runs north from Clane enters this barony about half a mile from the village of Clane. We have it on

\* "Select Poetry for Young Students," edited by Thomas W. Lyster, M.A.

† O'Donovan's note to "Annals of the Four Masters," A.D. 586. Joyce's "Irish Names of Places," vol. ii.

- the authority of O'Donovan, Mr. Hardinge, and Dr. Sullivan,\* that the modern baronies represent the ancient territorial divisions called *Tuaths*, and we may, I think, be satisfied that when we have travelled north from Clane, and entered the barony of Oughteranney, we are not far from the site of Buan's grave. About a mile further on is the little village of Mainham, and the moat, † which is such a conspicuous object, close to the old churchyard, is, in my opinion, the tumulus raised over the Leinster Queen. My reasons for this conclusion I shall briefly lay before you.

1. In the first place, we may take it for granted that the men of Leinster raised over her, whose tragic death must have deeply impressed them, as noble a monument as that which covered the headless corpse of the defeated Mesgegra at Clane. Now, the tumulus of Mainham is about the same size as that of Clane, and resembles it very closely.

2. It is close to the road that, running northwards through Oughteranney, now leads, and naturally would then lead, to the kingdom of Meath and to Tara.

3. That some ancient road followed, roughly at least, the line of the present Kilcock road, is sufficiently indicated by the names of certain places along that line. At Clane we have *Butter* stream, at the back entrance to Clongowes Wood we have *Butter*-hill, and just beyond Mainham we have *Boher* hole. *Butter* is, as you are aware, an English corruption of *Boher*, or *Bothar*, the Irish name for a road, and a road connecting these three places would pass close to the moat of Mainham, and continuing in the same line would proceed onwards towards Meath and Tara.

4. The fact that in former times a fair was held at Mainham curiously confirms this view. When we find that a fair has been regularly held in a place that is at present neither central, nor of any commercial importance, we may conclude that it had its origin in times very remote, when that place was, for some reason or other, a natural resort of the people of the country. In ancient times the Irish fairs were always held in cemeteries, and had their origin in funeral rites, and games annually celebrated by the tombs of departed monarchs and nobles of the land. ‡ There, while the dead were honoured with

\* O'Curry's Lectures on "The Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish," Introduction, p. xcvi and note.

† The accompanying illustration (p. 317) is from a sketch, taken on the spot by Mr. Rowland Smeeth, of Clongowes Wood College.

‡ See O'Curry's Lectures on "The Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish," Introduction, pp. cclv and cccxxvi.



various rites and ceremonies, the people were amused with feats of strength and skill, the laws were promulgated, disputes were settled, and finally commercial business transacted. Thus the famous fair of *Taille*, or Teltown, in Meath, was instituted by Leury, one of the Danaan kings, in honour of his foster mother *Taille*, daughter of a Spanish king, to honour her grave, and commemorate her name.\* And thus the men of Leinster would naturally hold an annual *aenach* by the grave of the good Queen Buan. Dr. Sullivan, in his Introduction to O'Curry's "Lectures,"† tells us that on those occasions the king with his council and retinue, sat on the top of a mound, which was a mound erected over the dead, and surrounded by a rampart. The flattened summit of the Mainham tumulus, and the traces of circumvallation, now fast disappearing before the ruthless crowbar of the road maker, give us every reason to conjecture that it was used for such a purpose.

5. The author of our tale tells us that the name of the grave was *Coll Buana*, the hazel-tree of Buan, which grew on the grave, and very close to it we have this name preserved in *Boherhole*, which, as the Rev. Canon Sherlock‡ has pointed out in a paper read before this Society, is a corruption of *Boher Coll*, and which we may suppose to indicate the road that led to this famous monument and place of meeting from the north of the county, and from Meath.

6. Lastly, I may add that there is no sepulchral monument that I can discover over this line of country, except that of Mainham, and no authority that I can ascertain for tracing the moat at Mainham to any other origin.

It may seem strange to some of you that the moat and the village adjacent bear no trace of the name *Coll*, and that local tradition lays no claim to their possession of such an illustrious relic of the past. The word *Mainham* is, I believe, the name of an Irish saint from whom Kilmainham, near Dublin, derives its name, and whose connexion with this part of the country may be marked by the fact that two of his brothers were buried in the old monastery of Clane.§ As the pagan rites gave way before the Christian, and the religious reverence for the moat was transferred to the church hard by, so we can easily conceive the name of the pagan Queen disappearing before

\* Joyce's "Irish Names of Places," vol. ii., p. 202.

† Addenda, p. dcxxxviii note.

‡ "Journal of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society," vol. i., No. I. "Notes on the Parish of Clane."

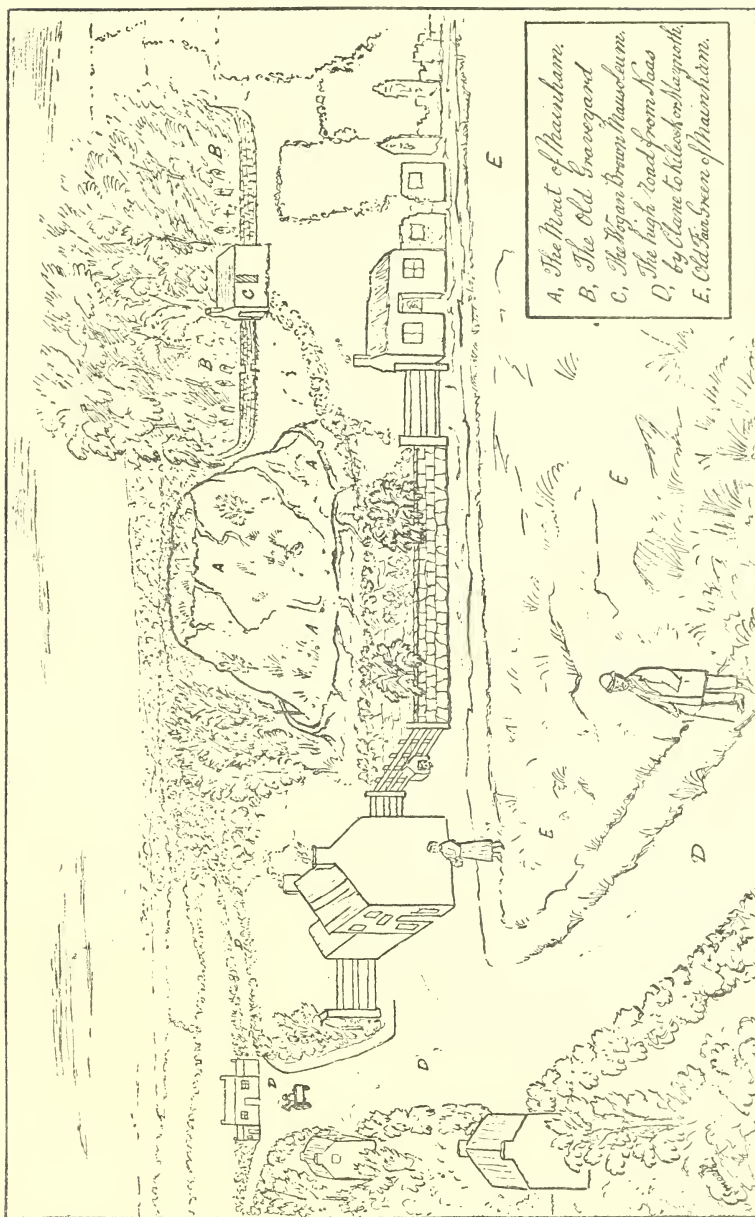
§ Dr. Comerford's "History of the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., p. 99-100.

the name of the Christian saint. Nor need we wonder that all tradition of so remote a past is lost. The Irish language, the usual channel of such traditions, has long been extinct in this county, as O'Donovan laments in his "Letters on the Ordnance Survey." In a MS. description of the county of Kildare, in the time of Elizabeth (a copy of which may be seen in the library of the Royal Irish Academy), occurs this remarkable statement:—"There are no meere Irishe in this countie," and Mainham, from the earliest mention I can find of it, was a purely English settlement. It was given by Strongbow to the De Hereford family.\* In a curious document published by Mr. Gilbert we find that in 1298 the English of Mainham were attacked by the Irish borderers, who slew many of them, and burned the village, and among twelve jurors summoned from Mainham in 1320 there was but one that had an Irish name, and he had already dropped the O.† But though the old clans with their traditions and language have vanished before the stranger, the moat that they raised over their dead queen is still left to link us with the past; and while the stone church that supplanted it is crumbling in ruin, this unpretentious monument of earth still stands, *aere perennius*, seemingly little changed in size and configuration, though washed by the rains, and smitten by the tempests, of nigh 2000 years, and is, I believe, well deserving of further investigation on the part of our Archæological Society.

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\* See "Registry of the Abbey of St. Thomas, Dublin," edited by Mr. Gilbert, p. 103.

† "History and Municipal Documents, Ireland," Rolls series, p. 455.



A, The Mound of Maresham.  
 B, The Old Graveyard.  
 C, The Hogan Breen Mausoleum.  
 D, The high road from Slane  
 by Clane to Kilsesh or Nazareth.  
 E, Old Fair Green of Maresham.



## ANCIENT NAAS.

BY THOMAS J. DE BURGH, D.L.

[Continued from page 282.]

### V.—TOPOGRAPHICAL.

#### BARRACKS.

THE "Loca Patriciana" relates that the green or faitche extended to the South Moat; and the old place of assembly for military and civic purposes is now occupied by the fair-green and a portion of the Main-street. These spots were probably all outside the ancient walls. In 1788 there is frequent mention of a buttress on the west side of fair-green.

In 1714, 1759, 1798, there appear to have been no regular barracks at Naas, *according to military records*. There was a barrack, however, on the present fair-green in 1818, and at that time it was in an almost ruinous condition, and the present permanent barracks had been completed since 1813.

#### THE ANCIENT GATES OF NAAS.

The ancient gates of Naas were the West Gate, Corbin Gate, Green Gate, Yeogogs Gate, North Gate, and Water Gate.

No trace of them now remains, and for near 400 years there seems to have been no actual gate, although the stone structures, probably arched over, remained in part until 1680.

These gates were probably used more for toll than defensive purposes since Henry VIII.'s reign.

*The West Gate*, called Custom Gate in 1786, was at the junction of Main-street, and New-row. The customs on turf entering by this gate were sold in 1671 to William Shannon,

“The said William to pave the said gate and keep it cleane yearly for said customs.”

*Corbin Gate.*—The entrance to Corroban’s-lane from Main-street. This gate was pulled down in 1680 “to make up ye walls of ye church.”

*The Green Gate*, or West Green Gate.—The entrance to the Main-street, from the fair-green and Kilcullen-road.

*Yeogogs* or Yeagogs, or Egoes, or Igogs, or Agogs, or Jagogs Gate.—The entrance to the Sallins road from Main-street. I think this gate must have been between Edward Byrne’s forge and a building (now demolished) which stood in centre of road between Byrne’s forge and Watkins’ brewery.

*The North Gate*, or Dublin Gate, stood where the Dublin road joins the horse fair. This gate was pulled down in 1680, and the stones used to make a “gateosle” (*sic*).

*The Watergate* was at the entrance to horse-fair from Friary-road.

There was some erection called *The Barrier*, or *North Barrier*, which is mentioned in old leases as being near Mr. Scott’s and Mr. M’Cormick’s present houses in Main-street. It probably was where there is now on the blank wall of St. David’s House a square kind of excrescence.

#### ANCIENT WALLS OF NAAS.

There is no doubt that after 1171, Naas was surrounded by a wall and strongly fortified, many castles erected, and several houses built (Lewis); and probably the ancient gates date from the same period. Most probably it was also a stronghold before the tenth century, and that the walls had been destroyed by some successful foe. Dr. O’Donovan’s *Leabhar-na-gCeart* (p. 202) mentions Naas as impregnable. In those yearly days religious houses rarely accumulated without practical steps being taken for self-defence. They were not only seats of religion, learning, education, and medical relief, but places of refuge. In times when the only effective land law was, “The simple plan, that he may take who hath the power, and he may keep who can,” they were granted, and *held* large landed possessions; and their success in defending themselves and their property against the inroads of warlike clans, perpetually striving amongst each other for the mastery, was as much due to their temporal power as to their clerical authority. From the time of Queen Elizabeth’s charter perpetual references are made to the fortifying of Naas and rebuilding of walls, yet in 1577, Naas was an open market town, and I have not met with any record of walls having been

built or repaired from that date (1569) to this. During the rebellion of 1641-47 Naas was many times taken, but there is no record of its having been besieged. In 1642 it was spared from burning by Ormonde owing to its having been deemed capable of being fortified, but certainly it was never fortified, in the sense of being surrounded by walls, after that date. In 1680 two of its gates were pulled down (Corbin's Gate and North Gate), which looks as if all pretensions to the maintenance of Naas as a fortress had been abandoned.

Neither have I been able to find any traces of town walls of any strength or thickness. Many of the walls, especially at back of Doran's Hotel, about St. David's Castle, and near the North Moat, are unusually high, but they have no appearance of antiquity and are many of them lined with brick, evidently for use as garden walls.

A map of 1565 omits all mention of Naas, although Kildare, Tristledermot, and Leglyma are shown. A 1572 map shows Nosse, but as an unfortified town. Map of about 1600 omits Naas, but shows Ramore, Jago (Geoghanstown, near Brannox-town), Kilcullen.

A map of 1665 omits Naas, although it shows Carbre.

Frederick de Witt's map of 1665 shows Nash, a castle.

The map made by Allards, of Amsterdam, shows Naas as one of the Minderstæden. A 1750 map shows Naas, but as a town of much the same importance as Crehelps, a town near Dunlavin.

#### CASTLES AND MOATS IN AND ABOUT NAAS.

*The Vicarage Castill* (St. David's Castle) must have been, from its position, the strongest defence of Naas in olden times. Of the old structure but little remains except the ground-floor rooms, with arched stone roofs and massive walls. It must have held a commanding position, the ground sloping steeply to the east and south, down to the Friary river, which, at its southern point, had been artificially excavated so as to form a foss as far as Church-lane. This river and the boggy ground beyond it might readily have been converted into a strong defence by the damming of the stream at Watergate mill.

*The Watergate Castle* is mentioned in 1707 as adjoining Watergate mill. About 1700 Richard Eustace held the Watergate mills, castle and malt house, which were on and about the present site of Mr. O'Hanlon's draper's shop.

*Black Castle*, or Duke of Leinster's Castle, was situated at the back of the dwelling-house and money-office opposite Mr.

Eagleton's butcher's shop. In 1788 it was known as Duke's Castle.

*Walker's Castle* was held about 1664 by James Hawkins. I cannot ascertain its site, but think this is the same as Wheatley's Castle.

*Lattin's Castle* is mentioned in 1673, when William Lattin was ordered "not to build his portall in the street, to pull down the wall adjoining Lattin's Castle, and the stone to be used for the church." I do not know its site.

*White Castle*, or the Old Castle, or White Chambre, is now part of the Town-hall. I have a plan of it dated 1786. Its frontage extended from a spot about 14 feet from corner of Mrs. Masterson's shop for 62 feet along Main-street. Its depth was 30 feet, besides back premises and walled garden. Magee held it from 1756 to 1775. In 1771 rooms were let in it to different persons at 30s. per annum. It was demolished about 1786.

*Magee's Castle* is mentioned in 1803, so it could not have been the same as White Castle, which, though held by Magee at one time, was demolished in 1786. In 1803, it was held by Laurence Healy, previously by Owen Whelan; in 1816 by Michael Meade, baker. I cannot fix its site, but believe it to have been between White Castle and Black Castle.

*Eustace Castle* is on Friary-road, at corner of horse-fair, and is now occupied by Mr. Hyland, contractor. The vaulted ground-floor room, very like the dining-room at St. David's Vicarage, and probably built about same time, is well preserved, also the room above it. The walls are of great thickness. A horse-mill is mentioned as having been part of the Castle premises.

*Motley's Castle* stood on or at back of the present site of Dr. Carter's Medical Hall. (See Lyard's Castle.)

*Lyard's Castle* was leased in 1735 by Motley, and perhaps was the same as Motley's Castle. It certainly was close to it, being noted as "The great castle opposite church gate."

*Wheatley's Castle*, or Wately's, or Wakely's, or Lord Mayo's (or I think Walker's) Castle, is described as having been, in 1788, "on south side of Main-street which was next Geoghegan's." It was on or near the site of the *Kildare Observer* office. An old deed mentions an old castle south of the Main-street, near Market-place.\* Walker lived S. E. of the Tholsell in 1708. Walker's Castle was held 1664 by James Hawkins.

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\* South is frequently used in error for east in old documents and maps connected with Naas, owing apparently to an idea that the Main-street runs east and west, whereas it runs nearly north and south.

*Castle Meadow* is mentioned as having been held by one of the Eustaces. Site unknown.

A castle (site unknown) was held by T. Murphy in 1679.

A castle is shown on an old map on the site of the two turrets in Oldtown demesne on Sallins road. I cannot otherwise account for their presence there. They are about 15 yards apart, round, with an outside diameter of about 7 feet, with castellated tops, and entrances shaped like the windows in St. David's Church, and with mouldings something like them, and deeply honeycombed with age. They have been rendered with mortar sometime during this century, apparently. Inside they are shaped like sentry-boxes, and have loopholes directed up and down the present road and along the former roadway towards Leinster Mill, which fixes their date to some period before the making of the canal in 1788.

*Castle of Maudlins*, or Magdelens, or Maudelines, stood near and north-east of the site of Mr. R. H. Tracy's house on Dublin road.

The Magdelens, or le Maudelins, was presumably a house of refuge in olden times.

*Castle of Rathasker*.—Austin Cooper states that, in 1782, he was told that S.W. of Naas there stood on a hill, surrounded with trees, the remains of a castle called Rathasker, or, he supposes, properly Rath Esker.

*The North Moat*.—The "Tripartite Life" informs us that a large conical artificial mound stood in St. Patrick's time on west of street (opposite the church). The dun, or fort, is stated to have been named Lys Luighdech, after its builder Luighdech Eithlenn, a king of the Tuatha de Danaan. It was burned by Cormac Mac Art about 270 A.D.

A dun, or fortified residence of an Irish chief, was always surrounded by a village composed of the huts of his retainers. Some members of the "fine" or "house" of some free family, generally that of the chief, would, for religious purposes erect a hut and oratory. This would be surrounded with religious cells. This assemblage of religious and lay persons organized schools which, as early as the sixth century, had gained considerable reputation and were largely attended (says Bede) by noble and other English and foreigners in 664, leading a monastic life. Many of the teachers were laymen, both when connected with cenobia, and later with monasteries.

Camden's "Britannica," of 1806, says the rath is Danish, which, I think, is incorrect. Until 904 A.D. the Palace of the Kings of Leinster stood on this rath. Here Faelon or Foillen, the keeper of the fort, is stated in an ancient legend to have been



found dead, after having, through ridicule, pretended sleep when sent for by St. Patrick. There was a small barrack on this rath during the present century. It was used as a main guard-room in connexion with the White Castle Jail, and as an outpost in the rebellion of 1798, and during the cholera epidemic in the early part of this century as a cholera hospital.

*The South Moat.*—The old rath can still be distinguished at south-eastern corner of the fair-green. Hamilton Leigh's "Road Book," of 1827, states it was an artificial mound. In 1681 Richard Eustace, of Naas, merchant, held "ye piece of commons on left hand of ye ford, leading from Naas to Craddoxtown, below ye square fort."

This square fort probably stood on the high ground (east of the fair-green wall), which slopes down to the river.

The green was called either fair-green or west-green, and some place near it was called St. John's-green.

*Castles generally.*—Austin Cooper, in 1782, states that "near the entrance from Dublin stands a small square castle of very ancient appearance; a small distance further on, and in a line with the street and with this castle, is another much larger and of very modern appearance, between both of those is another much the same as the first mentioned." He refers, I believe, to Black Castle, Magee's Castle, Motley's or Lyard's Castles as standing between White Castle and the old jail.

He also states that on May 20th, 1784, an old castle fell in Naas, by which one man was killed and two or three wounded.

#### RELIGIOUS HOUSES.

Bishop Comerford, in his "Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin," vol. ii., enters so fully into the ancient history of the following religious houses that I shall only refer briefly to them.

It may here be noted that, in 1537, the Act was passed "for the suppression of abbeys." Patent and Close Rolls: Hen. VIII. 1547—"Surrender of the Hospital, Monastery, or House of St. John the Baptist, of Naas, by Thos. Poswyck, Prior, with consent of the convent, with all its possessions in Naas, Sigginstown, Waltereston, Tristledermot, Edeston, or the rectories of churches of Naas, and Whitechurch, and all goods, chatels, utensils, ornaments, and jewels."

*The Old Roman Catholic Chapel* stood close to the site of the present Christian Brothers' Schools, at the foot of the North Moat.

*The New Roman Catholic Chapel* was begun in 1827, and the steeple completed on 31st December, 1858. It is 200 feet high

and modelled after that of St. Andrew's, Ewerby, Lincolnshire. Mr. M'Carthy was the architect of the steeple. Mr. Goldie completed the interior of the chapel.

See also "Dioceses," p. 282, vol. ii., and "Life of St. David," by Rev. J. O'Hanlon.

*The Monastery of Tulach-Fobhair* was at Millbrook, near Corbin's Mill (Colgan). Tulach means a hillock.

It was founded in the 7th century by St. Fechin of Fobhair, and built upon land given by a King of Leinster. Close to the site is Sunday's Well, where St. Patrick is said to have baptized.

Ware says the Monastery was dependent upon "Foure" (Fore) in Westmeath (Comerford, O'Hanlon).

*The Priory and Hospital of St. John the Baptist* stood behind the present parish priest's house, and included the ground on which the former M'Evoy's hotel stood. It was founded in the 12th century by a baron of Naas as a priory. Later a hospital was added to it, and was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, for canons regular of St. Augustine (Ware). It suffered severely at the hands of Edward Bruce in 1316, but was afterwards restored (Comerford).

Fiant of 28th July, 1539.—Lease to Allen of site of Hospital of St. John the Baptist of Naas, the lands of Naas, Sigginstown, Waltereston, Tristledermot, and Edleston, the Rectories of St. John's in the Naas, and Whitechurch, Co. Kildare, for twenty-one years. Rent, £39 3s. 4d.

1539, August 23.—Grant for Thomas Possike, Prior of the late Hospital of St. John the Baptist, of Naas, of a pension of £9, and for Lawrence Byrlye, religious person of the same, a pension of 40s. issuing from the Rectory of Whitechurch, Co. Kildare.

1540, April 20.—Lease to Thomas Allen of site of hospital of St. John the Baptist of Naas, lands in Naas, &c., for twenty-one years. Rent £35 18s. 2d.

1569, April 30.—Lease to Roger Finglas of site of late hospital of St. John of the Nas lands, about the hospital and in Johnstown, cottages, mill and land in the Nas, maintaining two horsemen.

1560, January 27.—Lease to Roger Grene, site of the hospital of St. John of the Naas, the demesne lands about the hospital and in Johnstown, lands and mill in Naas.

(*Query*—Is Johnstown (Inn) named after this Priory?)

Patent Rolls.—21 Ed. III., Exemplification for Priory of Naas, and confirmation for same.

*The Dominican Friary*.—Bishop Comerford states that it stood in the centre of the town, and that its supposed site was,

in 1762, occupied by an inn, now the Hibernian Bank. I think Archdale, and also De Burgho, in his "Hib. Dom.," confuses this with the site of St. John's Priory on a part of which stood the Globe Tavern at the time he wrote. My impression is that the Dominican Friary stood on the Friary-road near Eustace Castle.

Carew MSS., 1542.—The Fryars of Clane, the Black Fryars of the Nase, were sold to Sir Thomas Luttrell.

*The Augustinian Friary*, or Monastery of the Moat, stood north, and adjoining the Abbey graveyard (Ordnance MSS. state within the graveyard). Ordnance maps, however, still mark this spot "Site of St. Dominick's Abbey."

There was a superstition that a subterraneous passage led from the Friary to St. David's Church.

The later Ordnance maps show "Site of Friary" near corner of Basin-street and Back-lane, and my estate maps of 1722 (114 years before the first Ordnance Survey) mark the same spot "St. Dominie's Abby."

I have a photograph of a sketch made in 1781, by Austin Cooper of the "Dominican Abbey in Naas." He describes it as under.

"The town of Naas is small and old-looking, having some ancient castles therein and some old houses built in that style. On the north are the ruins of the Dominican Abbey founded by the Eustaces. Of it remains a small square steeple on an arch, and adjoining on the north side are the side walls of what part I cannot say, but a more ruinous pile I have never yet seen. Between this and the town is a very high mount, a few fields north of which is a grove in which, I was told, stood another called Knock." (The Knocks.)

1540, April 20.—Lease to Thomas Allen of site of Monastery of the Order of Preachers, by the Mote of Nase, with its appurtenances. Thirty-one years, £6 9s.

1542, June 15.—Grant to the use of Thomas Luttrell, of Lutreleston (I think now Woodlands), Knight (*inter alia*), the site of the Monastery of Fryars Preachers of Naas.

The ruins were demolished in 1835 (Comerford).

*The Magdelens* (see Castle of Maudlins).

*The Maudlins Protestant Cemetery* was enclosed, says O'Hanlon, in 1782. It was added to about 1889.

*The Roman Catholic Cemetery*, on Dublin road, was opened about 1885, on its being found necessary practically to close the Abbey graveyard.

An old inhabitant tells me that in his boyhood, owing to the prevalence of body-snatching, the dead had to be watched over

day and night for some time after interment. He mentioned the names of several bodies that had been thus taken; amongst others, that of a Mr. Moorehead, late Governor of Naas Gaol, which was taken from Maudlins' cemetery, and he mentioned the gruesome fact of his having seen some of the poor old man's grey hair in the hedge over which the body had been lifted. He pointed out the house in which a body-snatcher (or sack-'em-up (*sic*), as he called him), named Whelan, lived, who was ultimately convicted. It was a regular trade, and carts with wheels covered with leather were employed, so as to deaden the sound.

#### THE THOLSELL.

No building of ancient Naas, is so frequently mentioned in my manuscripts as the old Tholsell. Its site extended in 1786 from the front wall of the present Presbyterian Meeting House to within a few feet of the weigh-house. A narrow lane separated the Tholsell from the houses now occupied by the *Observer* office (once Atkinson's public-house), Mr. Ryan's, and Mr. Carney's. A flight of steps on its south side led up to the assembly rooms. Under these steps was a cellar 7 feet by 9 feet. Under the assembly rooms were also "sellars," let to William Fforster in 1664. A "dial" was put over the stairs in 1682, and a bell "worth £5 was hung in the Tossell in 1676." The garretts over the assembly rooms were let in 1678 to Richard Eustace. North of the Tholsell was a "waste spott," which, in 1664, had been let to William Fforster, but on his representing that his rent was "to soare" it was reduced to 10s. In 1668 T. Ashe demised to R. Eustace, who lived where Messrs. Reilley and Cunningham's premises now are the waste plot of ground (probably at back of Mr. Cunningham's house) between Tholsell and T. Ashe's house, with other concerns, "for £5 and a three pound sugar loaf at Xmas." In 1668 R. Eustace "got leave to lay two beams from his house to the Tholsell walls and to build thereon," whereupon he built over the intervening space (the site of the Presbyterian Meeting House) "a house slated from end to end." In 1681 it is mentioned that the county were to have ground for a new Sessions House, 48 feet by 40 feet, with a staircase at end, and from that out the name Sessions House is generally substituted for Tholsell, although it remained on same site. Perhaps it was added to, or used by both county and borough for their assemblies, but certainly the borough had to keep it in repair. In 1690 a guardhouse was made under the Sessions House, probably for police cells. In 1714 the Sessions House was allowed to be used as a school, and

schoolmaster Conlon was obliged to give security for £10 to pay for any damage to windows, bench and seat of Tholsell, if done by his scholars, a wise precaution, not wholly unnecessary even now after 190 years of progress.

In 1792 the county valued the premises on the sites of which the present Court House stands. When first built its railings extended to the present edge of footpath.

#### NAAS OUNCILS OR WEIGH-HOUSE.

There ouncils were put up in 1855. My father handed over the surplus of Naas Race Fund of 1849 in aid of their purchase. There used formerly (1846) to be Naas races held in Monread. A field near Maudlins is still called the racefield. Lewis' "Topography," December, of 1837, states that, "races are held one mile from the town on the Limerick road, and continued five days before Curragh Midsummer Meeting."

#### GAOLS, MARSHALSEAS, AND BRIDEWELLS OF NAAS.

Previous to 1664 two Bridewells are mentioned. One was apparently situated somewhere between Corban's Mill and the present horse-fair, and the other on or near the site of the building (afterwards known as the jail), which is now partly occupied by Mr. Rankin's public-house on horse-fair. It seems, however, that from 1776 to 1792, the White Castle (now Town-Hall) was used as a house of detention of some kind. In 1664 a Marshalsea was appointed, apparently for the custody solely of prisoners convicted before the Sovereign of the Borough, but I don't know whether this Marshalsea and the Bridewell were the same building. From 1664 to 1788 certainly, and probably until about 1800, the Bridewell was on the site now occupied by Mr. R. H. Tracy's new houses on Sallins road. About 1817 "Dr. Bolton built a house on site of old Bridewell." This house was later inhabited by Mr. Hendrick, and was demolished some twenty years ago. An 1846 rental mentions "Mrs. Eleanor Sutton's (late Curran) house, offices and yard, called Bridewell, on Sallins road." Later Dr. Joly (reps. Curran) held Bridewell in 1846. Contemporaneously with the Bridewell there was a goal (probably for the custody of Assize and county, as distinguished from borough prisoners), for in 1665, 1676, and 1681 down to 1743, I have found records in leases affecting certain lands "behind ye gaole," which building stood out in the street in front of Mr. Rankin's present public-house and adjoining house.

Austin Cooper, in 1781, mentions "the gaol, which is an inconsiderable building just at the entrance from Dublin."

This probably continued to be the county jail until the conversion of "White Castle, Geoghegan's and Ward's houses and gardens" (now the Town-Hall) into a gaol in 1792. This building, known as the "White Castle jail," continued to be a prison until 1833, when the gaol on the Limerick road was completed. I find a note of 1684 that "an exact veigh is to be taken of ye gardhouse of what will make a chimney there to avoid ye smoke, and like wise to view the upper loft of that place for to make a schoolhouse on for the present."

1685.—A guardhouse was to be built 21 feet by 16 by 10 feet high, slated, with a chimney. This apparently was not done, for in 1690 a guardhouse was built under the Sessions House.

This guardhouse was a cellar under the old Tholsell, used probably as police cells.

In 1825 there was a guardhouse on the North Moat.

In 1837 the police barracks were at the end of the lane beside Rankin's public-house. In 1851 they were at Mr. Gogarty's house in Main-street. They were moved to the premises adjoining Court House about twenty years ago.

I am told the stocks were in front of the present Town-Hall on a raised platform. Culprits were secured in them by one leg.

In 1561 William Florence was constable of the castle of Naas. (He, in 1569, 31st October, received a lease of a great stone house covered with tiles, and a castle in Naas, &c. maintaining an English archer. The same premises were let afterwards up to 1611 to Anthony Power, not to be let to any but English, and not to charge Coyne.)

1562, July 3rd.—Pardon to W. Florence, constable of the castle of the Naas, especially for the escape of prisoners.

1575.—Thomas Myagh was constable of the castle of Naas.

In 1581, one Myagh, was brought over from Ireland by command of the Lord Deputy, to be tortured in the tower (Jardine, p. 29).

1581, April 5th.—Peter Carew appointed in his place.

1583, November 9th.—Lords Justices order the Suffrein of the Naas and the keeper of the gaole to deliver the possession of the gaole to Thomas Meagh, and yet patent rolls, December, 26th, 1583, state that Peter Carew, held the office of constable of the gaole, fortillage and castle of Naas.

On April 23rd, 1586, the gaol of the Naas is described as the common gaole of the county Kildare.

1601, August 21st.—John Eustace, gent., was keeper of the Naas gaole, with 9*d.* sterling a day and other profits, same as Walter Laurence, gent., had elsewhere. Eustace's salary is shown as £18 5*s.*, per annum.

In 1611 Carew MSS. show that there was no keeper of Naas gaol.

#### THE POUND.

In 1665 a new pound was made "of good oake timber." In 1681 the pound was somewhere near Corban's Mill on Fryary-road; there was a watercourse opposite it. In 1684 a wall was built round the pound.

In 1696, "The pound and house and garden was hard by Corban's Mill." I do not know when the pound was changed from Corban's Mill to the water-gate, where it remained until 1890. Alexander Turner held the pound in 1716. Tim Donohoe in 1769. Henry Ottwell or Ollivel in 1791. James Tracy (who lived in Mr. Holloway's present house) in 1833. Edward O'Hanlon paid the rent for the pound in 1847. In 1890, new pound made behind Courthouse. There was also, from 1715 to 1786, and perhaps later, a pound at Killishee on Kileullen road, in the angle between the roads to Mullacash and Kileullen.

*The Town House or Toll House* stood between entrances from New-row, Fair-green-st., and Corban's-lane, in centre of street. The Town House was probably used as a market house in 1670, for at that time the weights and measures were kept in a shop outside the west gate near the top of New-row. In 1702 a presentment by grand jury for its removal was traversed by the town. Its rent in 1743 was £2 10*s.*; in 1783, £4 5*s.* It was held by Moore in 1774, then by Mary Doyle. It was "taken down for Kileullen turnpike" (*i. e.* for benefit of Kileullen road) in 1787. In 1770 there was a turnpike near Alder grove, Oldtown demesne; and in 1836 one at the Jigginstown Kennels.

#### THE MARKET HOUSE.

The Market House at Canal Harbour was erected in 1813 by the Earl of Mayo at his sole expense (as may be seen by the inscription) and was opened the same year.

In 1837, one Halfpenny offered £26 rent for Market House, which looks as if it had ceased to be used as such.

#### THE MARKET CROSS.

About 650 A.D., a stone cross was erected in the market-place of Naas in memory of the liberation of certain captives by

St. Fechin of Fobhair during his visit to Naas. It was from the foot of this cross that Rorie Oge O'More, in 1597, viewed and directed the burning of Naas. This market cross was in existence in the year 1707, for I have found several old leases which mention it, for instance—"1707, a brick house opposite ye Market cross to Richard Eustace." I think the cross stood somewhere between the present uncials and the Presbyterian Meeting House. The potato market, shambles, etc., were between it and St. David's Church. It would be interesting to know what became of the cross.

The *Post Office*, in 1820, stood where Mr. M'Guirk's house is on horse-fair; in 1839 it stood near where Mr. Jennings' tailor's shop now is. It then was moved to opposite Church gate; then to its present site in Main-street.

#### BLEACH YARDS AND FIELDS.

There was in 1645 a Bleachfield near the common pound, *i. e.* near Corbin's Mill.

In 1664 Mooney held the Bleachfield and R. Eustace the Old Bleachfield.

What was called the Bleachyard lay somewhere between the present chapel and Fryars' mill.

A Bleachfield extended in the seventeenth century from Dublin road to near Sallins, and comprehended Roseboro', and all the Protestant Orphan Society's lands down to Sallins road. In 1722 it was called Keating's Commons.

#### MANORS.

A manor was practically the unit in land under the feudal system. The king gave a grant of land to a subject, say on a tenure of knight's service. The grantee built a mansion, and reserving for himself a portion to be cultivated by his villeins (who afterwards became the important class of copyholders), enfeoffed other persons to hold the remaining portions from him, thus placing them in the position of tenants, some of whom gave labour, others war service, &c. (This class became the freeholders of later years.) Of the lands comprised within a manor there then remained only the uncultivated or unappropriated lands called "commons," the freeholders having certain rights of common over them. The original grantee thus became a lord of the manor. A great baron could grant smaller manors to others, and then the seignory of the superior baron was termed an honour. The statute of *Quia Emptores* (1290) practically prevented the creation of *future* manors. By sub-infeudations



the minor barons became bound to render to the original grantee of the Crown so many knights' services, &c., as were proportional to the estates and sub-infeudations conferred. They were acquiesced in by the Crown who enforced performance of the implied covenants, which were good government, leadership, and protection on the part of the over lord, and cash payments, obedience, and military service on the part of the feoffees.

## MANOR OF NAAS.

William Fitzmaurice, son of Maurice Fitzgerald, was Lord of Naas in 1177.

1185.—Prince John confirmed the grant of the barony of Naas, about 25,000 acres, which Richard Earl of Pembroke, within whose seignory of Leinster it was, had conferred on Maurice Fitzgerald. I give the substance of the grant:—

“John, son of the Lord the King of England and Lord of Ireland, to all his men and faithful French, English, and Irish, greeting: Know ye that I have granted and by this my present charter confirmed to W. Fitzmorice, and his heirs, one cantred of land which Makellan held, &c., in which is situate the town of Naas, and which Earl Richard gave to Morice, father of the said William, to be held of the heirs of Earl Richard by the service of five knights, &c.: Wherefore I will and firmly order that the said William and his heirs, after him, may hold well and in peace, freely, wholly, fully, honorably, and peaceably, all the aforesaid land and its appurtenances in land and in sea, in wood and plain, in castles and fortresses, in boroughs and towns, in churches and chapels; and I have granted also to him a market at his borough of Naas every Saturday weekly. Also I have granted him sack and sock and toll and them, infaug thef,\* ponethef, judgment† of water, and iron, and the duel and the pit and the gallows and all other liberties and free customs which belong to the same land, except the pleas, &c., appertaining to the Royal Crown, which I retain for my own use.

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\* *Sac and soc* meant full cognizance of all criminal and civil cases within the liberty. *Toll and them* or *theam* meant the right of receiving tolls and holding serfs. *Ing fang theof* meant the right to imprison felons, as *out fang theof* meant the right to execute them.

† In judgment of water, the accused was thrown bound into the water; if it received him and he sank, he was rescued and accounted innocent, otherwise he was deemed guilty.

In judgment of iron, the accused was either made to walk on hot plough-shares, or carry hot iron in his hand; if he was injured he was esteemed guilty: or else he had to lick a hot iron, a feat which can be performed by anyone with impunity, provided the iron be at *white*, not *red*, heat. The ordeal by duel was only legally abolished about 1818.

Witness, Berthram de Veredun, Seneschal, &c., at Kildare” (Chief Rem. Roll, Dub. 20, E. 4).

W. Fitzmaurice's daughter Emma married David Laundes de Londres, or of London, who became in her right Lord of Naas; his heir-general married Sir Christopher Preston, Kt., who became Lord of Naas. It may be here noted that Henry de Londres, or the Londoner, succeeded John Comyn, Archbishop of Dublin, who had built St. Patrick's present Cathedral. It was Henry de Londres who erected it into a cathedral; he also built Dublin Castle, 1205-1213. He was a Lord Justice.

Charter Roll T. L., 14 Henry 3 (1229)—

Crown confirmed by charter “Almarico de Sancto Amando,” for his homage and service, those four carrucates of land called ‘Le Ryn,’ which formerly belonged to Ua Gorman (O’Gorman), the Irishman, to have and to hold, &c.

The seignory, so confirmed, is stated in the statute of 1295 to have been held of Lord Theobald de Verdun by Sir Almarico de St. Amant. He sold his seignory to the family of Preston, afterwards Lord Gormanstown.

I found in the British Museum a curious old manuscript referring to David Baron of the Naas in 1302. I could only decipher a portion of it, but its substance is given in Carew MSS. in an inquisition of 1360 at Dublin Castle, which records that David Baron, of the Naas (in 1302), enfeoffed Baldwin Fitzrobert (filius Roberti) of 20 carrucates in the barony of Naas. The heir-general of this Baldwin afterwards married Johannem de Carreu (I make it Lodmeric Cureur). The 1302 document also mentions Almericho de St. Amand, Lord of Yeomanston in 1358. It also refers to Dominus David de la Roche and Mylo de la Roche, who lived in 1312.

1199. William de Naas paid the king 100 marks as a fine for having a writ of mort d'ancestor against the Abbot of Baltinglass.

1207. Writs (parliam.) were sent to William Baron of Naas.

1219. Close Roll Mandate to G. de Marescis, justiciary, that William Baron of Naas and Eva his wife had made a fine with the king, &c.

1223 Matilda, widow of the Baron of Naas, received redress for the seizure of her dower for relief due by her late husband's heir.\*

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\* On the death of a tenant of knight's fees, his heir, if of full age, had to pay a relief or fine to his Lord on taking up his inheritance. A tenant of a knight's fee was also liable for three different “aids” to his Lord—(1) ransom from captivity, (2) “pur faire fitz chivaler” (to make his eldest son a knight), (3) “pur file marier” (to provide a portion on his eldest daughter's marriage).

In 1226 Henry III., granted to William Barun of Naas that he have, till the King's majority (1229), a fair at the Manor of Naas for eight days, during the vigil and during the octave of St. Simon and St. Jude (October 26th to November 4th).

Thus we have the Lord of Ireland conferring the Lordship of Leinster, and him conferring among others the Lordship or Barony of Naas, the Lord of Naas conferring amongst other manors those previously mentioned.

#### LANDS OF THE CORPORATION.

The boundaries of the lands of the Naas Corporation are minutely given in the following record of the "riding of the fringes," dated 1810. I have more ancient records of that ceremony, but this one goes most into detail, and is practically the same as the earlier ones.

Franchises perambulated, beginning in High road to Caragh, where the stream crosses the road a little beyond Plookplake bridge, between Barnwell's field and Athonrashague (called elsewhere Attownashogue, Attemosoge, &c.), following said stream falling into the gripe of the ditch between Athonrashogue and the lands of Naas, on to the boundary ditch between Osburstown, the lands of Nox, and the lands of Oldtown, thence along that boundary crossing the canal a little on the Oldtown side of the Leinster Mill, and so on to the road between Naas and Sallins, going in on the road a little on the Naas side of the turn to Maudlins, thence the following road and the boundary ditch between Monreath and the lands of Osburstown and Sallins, on to the boundary ditch between Monreath and Cardiffstown, and along the top of that boundary ditch to the centre of the ford on bridge near the red mill on the Dublin road at Johnstown. Thence along the river towards the lands of Tipper, on to the ford where the river crosses the lane which leads from Furnace through the lands of Tipper to Madlins, and along that lane to Mulloy's house, and thence following the boundary between the lands of Tipper and all the adjoining lands on to the Fryary river joining the Fryary-road and the most eastern corner of Sunday's Meadow, thence along that river running nearly parallel to the Fryary-road, including a narrow stripe of ground terminating at a spring well near the road about 70 yards to the north side of Mr. Pollen's (now Mr. Donnelly's) house, at which well we turn in on the road and along the road to the Fryary bridge and from thence round the Oak Glen and along the boundary ditch between Mr. La Touche and Mr. Dillon, taking in a small stripe of the lands of Craddoxtown, crossing the Craddockstown road and along the boundary

between Craddockstown and Ballykean, on to the brow of the Lacken, and round the boundary ditch of the brow to the ford near the Kennel (Mrs. Headon's house). In the road at Broadfield, thence along the road towards the watch-house (Ballymore road) to the extent of Mr. Burgh's estate, where we turn off the road and follow the boundary between Mr. Burgh's estate and the lands of Killashee down to the river of Broadfield, and along that river to Killashee avenue, and along the avenue towards Killashee house to a defaced boundary which crosses the high field between the estates of Mr. Burgh and Baron Robeck, thence turning off the avenue along the defaced boundary to a long quick sett ditch at the head of the field, thence along that quick sett ditch and along the boundary between the lands of Baron Robeck and the lands of Mr. Burgh and Mr. Lattin down to the Kilcullen road, including Nancy Reddin's five acres, thence along the road towards Kilcullen to the boundary lane which turns down to Newland, between the estate of Baron Robeck and the lands of Rathasker, thence along that lane to the stream of water which runs between Rathasker and the lands of Newland and Newtown, and along that stream to a ford where it crosses the road near Thomas Fegan's house under the hill of Rathasker, thence along the same brook and the boundary ditch between Coolmoneene and the lands of Rathasker passing near the white wells, along the boundary ditch between the hill of Rathasker and the lands of Gigginstown and along that boundary and brook to the ford called Aughnascaltha, thence along the same stream through Monogallagh and broad corner to where it crosses the Kildare road near the east end of the buildings at Gigginstown, and along the same stream crossing the canal to the ford or gullet on the road to Caragh, near Barnwell's field, where we first began.

Some of the ancient names of corporation lands may here be mentioned.

*Archbold's Meadow* on the road to Craddockstown.

*Allen's Garden* on the West Green.

*Broad Corner.* There seems to have been another place of same name between Kilcullen and Rathasker roads.

*Bahadian* between Broadfield and Kilcullen road in 1655.

*Buttermilk Hill*, somewhere near Tipper Springs.

*Banegobrack*, somewhere in angle between Naas, Dublin, and Monread roads.

*Boyd's Holding*, somewhere about the Lacken.

*Boyd's Tenement*, opposite Town Hall in 1816.

*Black Nans*, or Jackson's Park, 2 acres between Kilcullen and Rathasker roads, held by widow Lyon in 1793.

*Clogheran Charles*, between Jeggenstown Mill and Plook-plake Bridge.

*Caragh* was anciently called Kerogher.

*Cloghpatrik*, part of Millfield near Oldtown.

*Cragg Acre*, somewhere near Rathasker road.

*Dempsey's Meadow* near Naas, on R. of road to Broadfield.

*Foadspaniagh*, field S. of Corban's lane.

*Gusteens*, north-west of Dublin road, close to railway bridge.

*Gortnegahoane* on left of road to Oldtown (?).

*Heathfield* (1655) due north of Ballykeane.

*Hillfield*, opposite Oldtown in Monread.

*James' Garden*, on right of road to Gigginstown, adjoining Pigeonfield.

*Knockinagadara*, the hill without the West Gate, beyond the fair-green.

*Knockowdy Hill*, 80 perches beyond 16 mile stone.

*Kennel*. There was a dog kennel at Mr. Headen's in 1786.

*Leathyrathsillagh*, close to Naas, west side of road to Killecullen (signifies neglected, dirty fort).

*Monicaca* or *Moneycrocker*, between Knocks and Canal (signifies dirty bog).

*Monread*. (Monaree means bog of the King, Monarud means bog of the iron scum), east of Sallins road. In 1725 it was agreed that a law should be drawn up with all convenient speed for the prevention and disclaiming the annual practice of hunting the wren on Monread on St. Stephen's Day owing to differences that had arisen.\*

*Moneremeene*, lands somewhere in Monread.

*Pigeonfield*, on R. of road Naas to Gigginstown.

*Rathasker* means fort of the sand hills.

*Shoulder of Mutton*, a field between St. David's Castle and Fryary-road.

*Spring Commons*, now called (in part) Bird's farm, beyond canal.

*Three Springs*, somewhere in the valley between Broadfield and Killashee.

*Temple Carragh*, north of Gigginstown Castle.

*Wet Acre*, somewhere on Limerick road.

*Wells*—

St. Patrick's, Oldtown.

Sunday's Well, Millbrook.

Old closed well by river in garden of St. David's, House.

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\* As previously stated, there was in 1837 a legend that the Charter of Naas was anciently held by the killing of a wren on every St. Stephen's Day.

Well near bridge in St. David's grounds.

Spring well behind Mr. Mooney's house at Millbrook.

Charles Well, somewhere near Eustace Castle on E. end of John's-lane.

The following are not identified:—

*Bushy Park; Bloody Acre, 3A. 13P.; Black Acre; Dudd's Burgagery; Fairy Field; Farrish; Longstone Garden; Lattin's Folly; Moneen Milligh; Penfield; Rampark; Sally Park; Lyard's Bush, mentioned in 1708; Lord Kildare's Bush.*

Reilly park is a field of Miss M'Evoy's on Tipper-road.

Farencarrughe (not identified).

The Brehon law was the land law of Ireland before 1170, and of some communities in Ireland down to the 17th century. It comprised commons of tillage as well as pasture. This custom entailed annual repartition of the tillage portions. Towards the close of the 17th century special efforts were made by the Corporation of Naas to dispose of their lands (commons) by lease. A valuation was made in 1677 for the purpose of raising funds for bringing out the Charter of 1671, and repairing the church, and for getting permanent tenants for the commons, which apparently had been let from year to year. In 1677 the inhabitants were called together to arrange for the absolute disposal of the lands. Although the rents were merely nominal, the fines seem to have been heavy; and it was with much difficulty that lands were let, for in 1679 a notice had to be issued warning lessees that unless the fines were paid promptly the lands would be relet to the first person who deposited the cash payment. A good quantity of the land was at this time let to complete strangers on leases for lives renewable for ever and leases for ninety-nine years, and their interests were eventually sold at large profit to the ancestors of the present owners.

In 1728 the rents of the commons were so low that successive sovereigns preferred to forego them when in arrear than to prosecute for their recovery.

Many of these rents were paid in kind, for instance:—

1664—1s. per acre and a couple of hens.

„ —1s. „ and a couple of fatt capens yearly.

„ —1s. „ and two fatt hens.

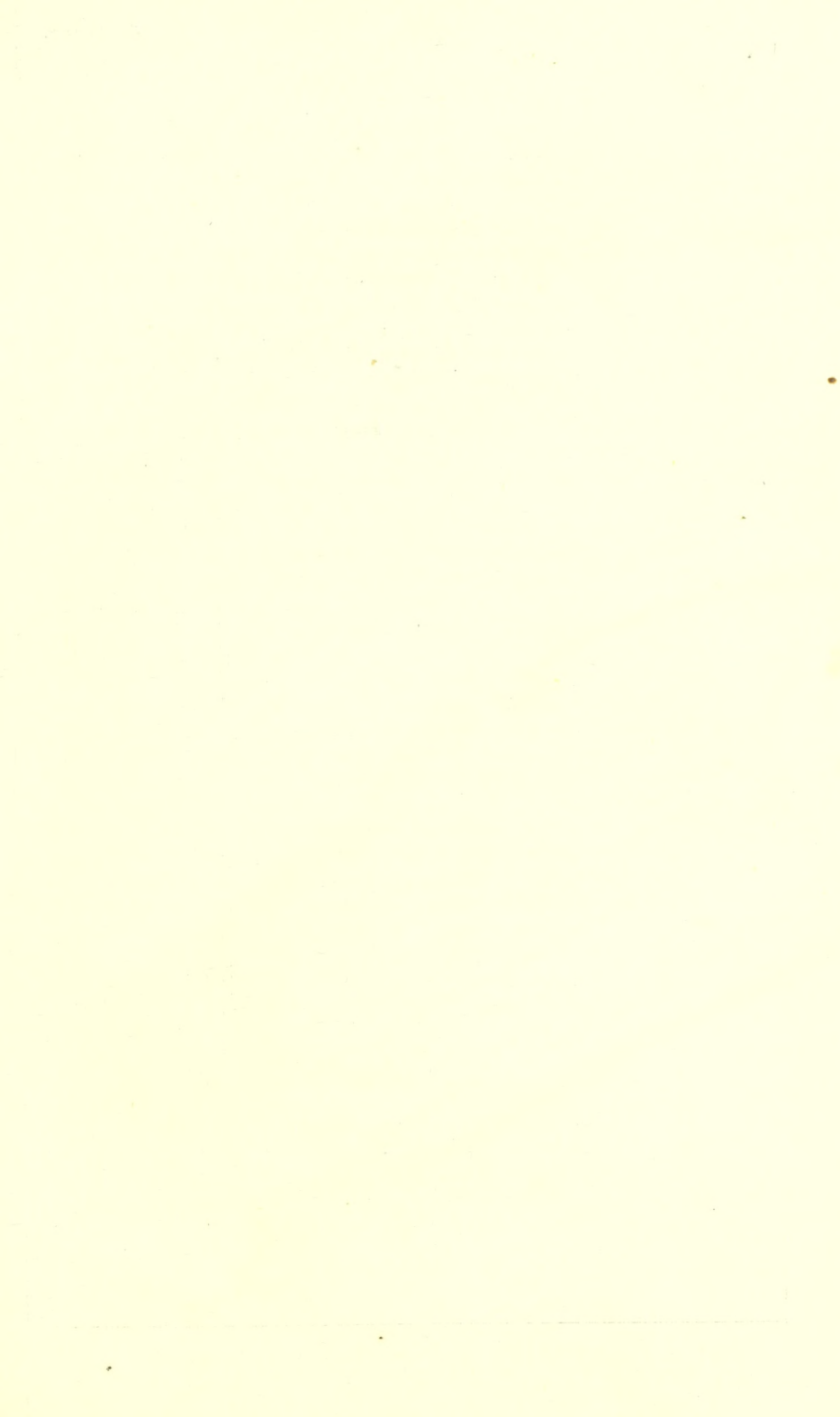
1674—1s. „ and a couple of fatt cappons.

1680—A couple of capons to the sovereign.

1695—£3 and a bottle of usquebagh at Xmas.

1694—6 pair of pigeons.

In 1832 a fee-farm grant of some of the corporation land was made to trustees. These are now held by the Protestant Orphan Society.







## Miscellanea.

An undeciphered portion of a 16th-Century Inscription from near Athy.—On the page opposite is shown a (carefully touched up) rubbing from a stone now preserved at Kilkea Castle; it measures 47 inches in length,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches in breadth, and 7 inches in thickness; the material is limestone, and the lettering is in relief.

Many years ago this inscribed stone was seen by the 4th Duke of Leinster, used as the sill to a barn-door at Brennan's farm, on the townland of Aghanure, which lies on the north side of the road from Athy to the Moat of Ardscull. The Duke had it raised, replaced with another stone sill, and conveyed to Kilkea Castle for safety.

Up to the present time antiquarians have failed to decipher the inscription; this is made all the more difficult by the stones at either end being missing.

Mr. John R. Garstin (an expert in suchlike matters), to whom I sent the rubbing, says:—

“I have not made much progress in its decipherment; this is the more provoking, as the letters are so bold and plain. The inscription is difficult to read, from the absence of several helps usual in such; for instance, there do not appear any marks of abbreviations, the ‘i’s are not dotted, &c. Another source of difficulty is that the final limb of some letters does duty as the first of that which follows. . . .”

The place from which this stone was originally brought is now forgotten, as the former tenants of the farm left the place some years ago.

That this inscription dates from the first half of the 16th century is proved by the five “Cs”, and the beginning of an “X,” which appear at the end of the bottom line.

WALTER FITZGERALD.

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Gerald, the 9th Earl of Kildare's Escape when riding from Dublin to Maynooth.—In Holinshed's “Chronicles of Ireland,” on page 100 of the edition published in 1586, is given the following adventure, illustrative of the foresight and tactical skill of this Earl of Kildare; but, to my mind, it was an uncomfortable practical joke to play on a faithful servant:—

“The Erle being in Dublin forewarned that John O'Lurkan with certaine desperate varlets conspired his destruction, and that they were

determined to assault him upon his return to Mainoth, he had one of his servants named James Grant (that was much of his pitch and at a blush did somewhat resemble him) attired in his riding apparell—namelie a scarlet cloake wherewith he used to be clad. Grant in this wise masking in his lord's attire rode as he was commanded in the beaten high waie towards Mainoth, with six of the Erle his servants attending on him.

“The Conspirators awaiting towards Lucan the coming of the Erle, encountered the disguised Lord, and not doubting but that it had been Kildare, they began to charge him; but the other amazed therewith cried that they tooke their marke amisse; for the Erle rode to Mainoth on the further side of the Liffey. Wherewith the murtherers appalled fled awaie, but incontinentlie were by the Erle apprehended, sustaining the punishment that such Caitifes deserved.”

This earl died in the Tower of London on the 12th December, 1534.

WALTER FITZGERALD.

Gerald, the 9th Earl's Harpers.—In the same work we are given a description of the Silken Thomas's Rebellion, which broke out in 1534, just fifty years before Holinshed's "Chronicles" were published. He there describes the scene in St. Mary's Abbey on the 11th of June, when Lord Thomas surrendered the Sword of State, and how the Lord Chancellor, Cromer, a well-wisher of the Geraldines, endeavoured to dissuade him from his mad enterprise. While patiently listening to his father's old friend, Holinshed says, an Irish bard named Nelan, one of his retainers, commenced to recite in Irish a heroic poem in praise of the FitzGerald, and reminded him of the injustice done to his father Gerald, the 9th Earl, by Henry VIII.; this finally decided the Silken Thomas, and he abruptly left the council chamber, accompanied by his retainers and body guard.

In Morrin's "Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls, Ireland," is recorded the pardon, in 1540, of Owen Keenan, harper, a servant of Gerald, the 9th Earl of Kildare; and, in all probability, the Irish bard, Nelan, of Holinshed's account, is the same individual as the Keenan, harper, here mentioned. The latter belonged to "Cappaghvarget," near Rathangan; he was also known as Owen the Rhymer, or Owen the Poet, and as Owen "Caech" Keenan, *i. e.* dark, or blind, Owen Keenan. His son, Cornelius, also a harper, is mentioned as well in the pardon, but for what offence is not stated, though participation in the recent rebellion is the most likely.

WALTER FITZGERALD.

## OBITUARY.

THE Society has to regret the loss of a member of its Council — the VENERABLE MAURICE DE BURGH, Archdeacon of Kildare, and for many years Rector of St. David's, Naas. The late Archdeacon de Burgh belonged to an old county family, and though his long ill health prevented his taking a very active part in the proceedings of the Society, he took great interest in its aims, and at one of its earlier meetings read some historical notes on the Church of St. David's.

## Note.

By HENRY J. B. CLEMENTS.

**Alen of St. Wolstan's.**—The following account of this family, once powerful but now extinct in Kildare, is taken from the “*Dictionnaire de la Noblesse*,” by De-la-chenaye Desbois and Badier :—

ALLEN OF ST. WOLSTAN'S, an old established family of the county of Kildare in Ireland. It is descended in a direct line from Sir John Alen, knight,\* who accompanied William the Conqueror in his expedition to England, and traces back through him to Charles the younger, son of Charles the elder, Duke of Normandy, as is set forth in the “*Annals of England*,” and is also attested by Sir Thomas Hawely, principal Herald of Arms of that kingdom, in the eighth year of the reign of King Henry VIII. This genealogy was drawn up from title-deeds, by Sir William Hawkins, Irish King of Arms, and certified by Lord Townshend,† Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, 15th of November, 1770, by Lord Rocheford, Principal Secretary of the Southern Department, 15th of May, 1771, and by the Comte de Guines, then French Ambassador in England, the 21st of July, of the same year. The French translation which we have had made of it in 1773, has been certified to conform to the original English by M. Tibissen-du-By, the king's interpreter, 11th April, 1773.

William the Conqueror, as a reward of the services of Sir John Alen, particularly at the famous Battle of Hastings in Sussex, in which King Harold was killed, gave him considerable estates in the counties of Norfolk, Cornwall, and Westmoreland. From this Sir John Alen descends in the twenty-third generation (which generations are set forth and proved in detail in the original English, which it is useless to repeat here).

PATRICK ALLEN OF ST. WOLSTAN'S, knight, who raised at his own charge, a body of troops for the use of King James II. He served in the capacity of Major-General of his army in Ireland, was present at the siege of Limerick, which obtained such honourable terms of capitulation, that he was allowed to preserve part of his estates in spite of his attachment to his legitimate prince and the religion of his fathers. He died, 12th of October, 1724, having been twice married. By his first wife he had twenty-one children; by the second, Mary, daughter of Sir James Dowdal of Athlumney,‡ in Meath, he had also twenty-one children, and left among others—

ANTHONY, who follows, and

LUKE, who follows his brother.

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\* French “*Baronet*.” † French “*Townskend*.” ‡ French “*Alhloomy*.”

SIR ANTHONY ALEN, knight, married 20th of October, 1734, Mary, daughter of Sir Patrick Wall, of Pollardstown, in Carlow, by whom he had Sir Ulick Wall Alen, knight, who succeeded as eldest son to the estates of the younger branch, according to the custom of the country. He is not yet married.

SIR LUKE ALEN OF ST. WOLSTANS, knight, younger brother of Anthony, entered the service of France, in 1735, served as lieutenant in Dillon's regiment, which he quitted for Lally's after the battle of Fontenoy, and was adjutant\* of the latter; made a Chevalier de Saint Louis in 1756; Major of Lally's regiment and Adjutant-General† of the army in India, in 1757. Entrusted with the taking of the fort of Sacramalous, near Arcate, he scaled the walls, and was the first to enter it, with a captain of the regiment of Lorraine, and twenty men. After the first battle of Vanderrachy, gained by the king's troops, in 1759, he was put in command of the army before that place. During the siege of Pondicherry in 1760, he was detached with 400 white troops, of which 150 were cavalry and six field pieces, and made commander-in-chief in India with full powers. He delayed for some time the taking of the capital, having got possession of the fort of Tiagare, which it cost the English a siege of three months to re-take, he passed Les-Gattes to join Maratte's camp, but changing his mind marched to Hydersaeb's camp, in Mayssour. Hydersaeb owed to the white cavalry, at the head of which Luke Alen fought, the gaining of a battle which marked the height of his power. Luke Alen was wounded there, and Pondicherry having fallen, he returned to France, having remained with his white cavalry, the last French under arms, and the only Members of the expedition who were not made prisoners of war.

He married, 5th of October, 1762, Mlle. Marie Charlotte-Adelaide de Béhague, younger daughter of Pierre de Béhague and Marie-Anne-Eléonore de Genthon (and sister of Jean-Pierre-Antoine de Béhague, Chevalier de St. Louis, Brigadier of the king's armies 1768, and commander of the army in America and of the town of Brest), by whom he had:—

1. Sir Luke-Patrick-John, b. August 26, 1775.
2. Eléonore-Antoinette, b. June 19, 1765.
3. Luce-Julie, b. December 13, 1766.
4. Aimeé-Polieute, b. March 14, 1768.
5. Charlotte-Adelaide, b. May 8, 1769.
6. Isabelle-Jeanne, b. September 5, 1771.

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\* French "Capitaine-Aide-Major." † French "Aide-Major-General."

## Queries.

CAN anyone tell me *who was the wife of William Pilsworth, Bishop of Kildare?*

According to Harris's "Ware's Hibernica," vol. i., p. 392, William Pilsworth was a native of London. He became Vicar of St. David's, Naas; was consecrated Bishop of Kildare in September, 1604; died at Naas on the 9th of May, 1635, in his 76th year; and was buried at Dunfert, in the barony of Carbury.

In the south-east corner of the ruined church of Dunfert there is a plain box-tomb of limestone, now badly broken by the fall of a portion of the ruined wall beside it.

On the top of the lid-stone, in six lines running lengthways, is the following inscription in raised letters:—

TERRAM : TERRA : TEGIT : TERRAS : ELIZA : RELIQVIT  
 PILSWORTHI : CONIVX : CHARA : PVDICA : PIA  
 QVANDO : QVATERDENOS : BISBINOS : VIXERAT : ANNOS  
 CONCESSIT · FATIS · CÆLICA · REGNA · PETENS  
 OBIIT · 31 · DECEMBRIS  
 1613 : AETATIS · SVAE · 44

TRANSLATION.—Dust to dust (lit. earth covers earth). Eliza, the beloved, chaste, and godly wife of Pilsworth has left the world; when she had lived for four times ten and twice two years she yielded to destiny, seeking a heavenly kingdom. She died on the 31st of December, 1613, aged 44.

The "Eliza conjux Pilsworthi," above mentioned, in all probability was the Bishop's wife. I have searched the Funeral Entries in the volumes in Ulster's Office to try and identify her, but neither his nor her death is given, though a son and three daughters of theirs are mentioned. The entry of the son's death is given thus:—

"Phillipp Pilesworth of Bert in the Countie of Kildare, Esqr.; hee was the eldest sonn of the Right Reverend Father in God William Pilesworth, sometyme Lord Bishopp of Kildare; the aforesaid Phillipp Pilesworth did marry Amy, daughter of George Fitz Gerald of Tecroghan in the Countie of Meath, Esqr., by whome the abovesaid Phillipp had noe issue. Hee departed this mortall life the xvth of Aprill 1638, and is interred in the church of Dunfert the xxth day of Aprill."

—WALTER FITZ GERALD.

Can any of our readers identify the two undermentioned hills in the eastern portion of the county Kildare; though the names are not now in use, they may be traced by some local name for a field, which does not appear on the Ordnance Survey Maps?

The names occur in the following extract from the Annals of the Four Masters, under the year A.D. 458 :—

“After Laeghaire (pron. Leary), the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, had been thirty years in the sovereignty of Ireland, he died by the side of Caissi, between Eire and Alba, *i. e.* two hills which are in Ui Faelain (or Offelan); and it was the Sun and Wind that killed him, because he had violated them.”

In a note to the above O'Donovan writes :—

“There is a curious account of the death of Leary preserved in the ‘Lebar-na-Freera,’ a MS. of the 11th century, in which it is stated that it had been foretold to the King that he would come by his death between Ere and Alba (*i. e.* Ireland and Scotland), and for which reason he would never venture on the sea; also that after solemnly swearing by the Elements that he would never again demand the cow-tribute of Leinster, he shortly after violated his oath, and proceeded with an army into Leinster to levy the great tax; but that, when he reached Greallach-Daphill, by the side of Caissi, in Magh Life (or the Plain of the Liffey), between two hills, then called Ere and Alba, he was killed by the Sun and Wind, and the other Elements by which he had sworn.”

His death between these two hills is also recorded in the Annals of Teerna (Tighernach), and of Ulster; “Magh Life” was a district in Offelan, and lay on either side of the river Liffey where it flows through the county Kildare.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

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I have one more addition to make to the List of Stone Effigies in the County (continued from pages 148 and 207) :—

At CASTLEMARTIN are the remains of an altar-tomb, which bore an effigy of a knight in armour, probably a Eustace, the ancient proprietor. The remains are so broken up, and so much is missing, that it is impossible to find out if the tomb bore an inscription, or if there was an effigy of the knight's wife as well.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

## Reply to Query.

IN reply to the inquiry in the third number of the JOURNAL as to the meaning of the name Hazelhatch, the Editor is informed by Mr. Clements that on an old map in his possession, by Sir William Petty, the name appears as Hazel-hurst, which is evidently its true form—meaning a “hurst” or “thick wood” of the hazel tree. Anglo-Saxon, *hyrst*—a word occurring frequently in the composition of local names in England.

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## Corrections.

ON page 162 of the JOURNAL I have accidentally stated that the Chair of Kildare was probably the place where the chiefs of the O'Tooles were inaugurated. This is a very apparent slip for the O'Conors Faly, in whose territory the Chair was situated.

On page 149 the wife of Sir Roland Fitz Eustace, Baron of Portlestor, should have been given as Margaret, daughter of Jenico D'Artois, and not as there stated.—WALTER FITZGERALD.



# JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

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## Proceedings.

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THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, the 17th January, 1894, in the Town Hall, Naas:—

MOST REV. DR. COMERFORD, *Vice-President*, in the Chair.

The following Members of the Council were present:—  
Mr. Thomas Cooke Trench; Mr. George Mansfield; Canon Sherlock, *Hon. Editor*; Lord Walter Fitz Gerald; Rev. Denis Murphy; The Earl of Mayo, *Hon. Secretary*.

In addition the following Members and Visitors attended:—

The Countess of Mayo; Mrs. Cooke Trench; Mr. T. Love; Mr. and Mrs. E. Sweetman, and Mr. Sweetman, jun.; Mr. Stanley Coote; Miss Sherlock; General M'Mahon; Miss Warren; Mr. Thomas J. De Burgh; Rev. Thomas Morrin; Mr. F. M. Carroll; Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Sutcliffe; Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Maguire; Mrs. Weldon and the Misses Weldon; Mr. A. More O'Ferrall; County Inspector Loch; Mr. J. T. Brooke; Rev. James Adams; Rev. Matthew Devitt; Mr. S. J. Brown; Miss Aylmer; Rev. J. S. Conmee; Mr. P. Anderson; Rev. M. J. Murphy; Very Rev. Edward W. Burke; Mr. T. J. Hannon; The Very Rev. G. Y. Cowell, Dean of Kildare; Mr. George Wolfe; Rev. B. Davidson Houston.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting having been read and signed, the Chairman proposed the following Resolution expressing condolence with the Duchess of Leinster and the

members of the late President's family, which was unanimously adopted, having been seconded by the Earl of Mayo:—

“That the County Kildare Archæological Society wish to put on record their deep regret at the loss of their late President, His Grace the Duke of Leinster, and to convey to Her Grace, the Duchess, and the other members of the Leinster family their sincere sympathy and condolence.”

The Earl of Mayo read the Report of the Council for the past year, 1893, which was adopted.

In the absence of the Hon. Treasurer his report for the year 1893 was read by Lord Walter FitzGerald, and was also adopted.

Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe was elected Auditor of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society, to audit the accounts for the year 1893, to be published in the next issue of the *Journal* as usual.

Lord Walter FitzGerald and Mr. George Mansfield, being the retiring members of the Council by rotation, and having offered themselves for re-election, were re-elected.

This being the first Meeting of the Society since the lamented death of the late President, the Duke of Leinster, the Members proceeded to elect a successor to fill that office.

On the motion of Lord Walter FitzGerald, seconded by Rev. Denis Murphy, the Earl of Mayo was unanimously elected President of the Society.

The Chair having been vacated by the Vice-President it was taken by the Earl of Mayo, who thanked the Society for the honour that had been conferred upon him.

It was proposed by Mr. George Mansfield, seconded by Canon Sherlock, and passed unanimously—

“That Lord Walter FitzGerald be elected one of the Honorary Secretaries of the County Kildare Archæological Society, this office being now vacant by the appointment of the Earl of Mayo as President of the Society.”

Proposed by Lord Walter FitzGerald, seconded by Mr. George Mansfield, and passed *nem. con.*—

“That the Rev. E. O’Leary, of Ballyna, be elected to fill the vacancy on the Council of the Co. Kildare Archæological Society.”

The following Resolutions were also passed:—

Proposed by the Earl of Mayo, seconded by Mr. George Mansfield—

“That the thanks of the Society are due and are hereby tendered to Mr. Frederick M. Carroll for the trouble he has taken in connection with the admirable restoration (at considerable expense to himself, over and above the Society’s grant) of the Celtic Cross of Moone, situated in his grounds, and to Lord Walter FitzGerald for his assistance in the same direction, and in kindly lending much of the necessary machinery for carrying out so difficult an undertaking.”

Proposed by Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*, seconded by Mr. F. Carroll—

“That a Committee be appointed, consisting of Lord Walter FitzGerald, Rev. Denis Murphy, and Mr. T. De Burgh, to ascertain what monuments in the County and District of the Society it is advisable should be placed under the charge of the Board of Works, pursuant to the Ancient Monuments’ Preservation Act (Ireland), and that the Committee be given full power to communicate with the Board of Works on the subject in accordance with their invitation. That the Round Tower at Oughterard be especially brought to the notice of Sir Thomas Deane as to the advisability of making it a National Monument.”

It was decided that the Excursion Meeting for the ensuing Session of the Society should take place at Castledermot and district early in September.

The following Papers were read by the respective authors—

1. “The Grave of Buan, near Clane.” By the Rev. Mathew Devitt, s. J.

2. “On Interlacing Ribbon-Work.” By Thomas Cooke Trench.

3. “Notes on Thomas Hibernicus of Palmerstown.” By the Earl of Mayo.

4. “The Aylmers.” By Hans Hendrick-Aylmer. Extracts therefrom read by Canon Sherlock in the absence of the author.

A vote of thanks to the authors of these several Papers was unanimously passed.

The Earl of Mayo exhibited a Cross-belt and Badge of the Naas cavalry, 1798; also some Coins found when the stables at Palmerstown were being rebuilt in 1837, one being of the reign of Queen Elizabeth; also a photograph of the restored Cross at Moone, and photographs of Sketches of Ruins in county Kildare, made by Austin Cooper, *circa* 1784. The Rev. Denis Murphy exhibited the original matrix of the seal of the Cistercian Abbey of St. Peter at Athlone. The Most Rev. Dr. Comerford exhibited a copy of the *London Gazette* of August, 1689, recording, amongst other things, the delivering up of the Sword of State by the Earl of Clarendon to the Earl of Tyrconnell.

A vote of thanks to the Vice-President and President for presiding terminated the proceedings.

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The next Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, January 24, 1895, in the Court-house, Naas, kindly lent for the purpose by the High Sheriff of the County:—

THE EARL OF MAYO, *President*, in the Chair.

The following Members of the Council were present:—Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, *Vice-President*; Mr. George Mansfield;

Rev. E. O'Leary ; Rev. Denis Murphy ; Mr. H. Hendrick-Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer* ; Lord Walter FitzGerald, and Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Ulster, Hon. Secretaries*.

In addition the following Members and Visitors attended :—

Rev. J. F. M. Ffrench, M.R.I.A. ; Mr. J. T. Brooke, D.I. ; Rev. Wm. Elliott ; Mr. Edmund Sweetman ; General and Mrs. M'Mahon ; Miss Archbold ; Colonel P. D. Vigors ; Mr. F. M. Carroll ; Mr. J. G. M'Sweeny ; Rev. T. Carberry ; Miss Johnson ; Mr. T. J. Hannon ; Rev. M. J. Murphy ; Dr. F. J. Falkiner ; Rev. J. T. Bird ; Rev. W. S. Large ; Colonel Stoney ; Rev. James Carroll ; Surgeon-Major Keogh ; Rev. James Adams ; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sutcliffe ; Rev. Thomas Morrin ; Mr. P. A. Maguire ; Mr. Wm. Staples ; Mr. E. Molloy ; County Inspector Loch ; Rev. John Dunne ; Mr. A. Aylmer ; The Dean of Kildare ; Mr. R. R. Kennedy, R.M. ; Major and Mrs. Rynd ; The Lord Chief Justice, Sir Peter O'Brien, Bart., and the Misses O'Brien ; Major Wheeler Cuffe ; Rev. Mr. Cullen ; Mr. P. J. Doyle, &c.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting having been read and signed, Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*, as *Hon. Secretary*, read the Report of Council for the year 1894, which was adopted.

The *Hon. Treasurer* then read his Report for the year 1894, which was also adopted.

Mr. F. M. Carroll proposed the following Resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Edward Sweetman, and passed unanimously—

“That the thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe for kindly auditing the accounts of the Society for the years 1893 and 1894, and that he be asked to kindly undertake the auditing of the accounts of the Society for the present year.”

Mr. Sutcliffe, who was present, signified his willingness to do so.

The Rev. Canon Sherlock and Rev. Denis Murphy, being the Members of Council retiring by rotation, and having offered themselves for re-election, were re-elected.

The following Resolution, moved by Lord Walter FitzGerald, and seconded by Mr. George Mansfield, was unanimously passed—

“That the County Kildare Archæological Society wish to put on record their deep regret at the loss of the Venerable the Archdeacon of Kildare, a member of their Council, and to convey to his family their sincere sympathy in their affliction.”

Mr. Thomas J. De Burgh, D.L., was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by the death of Archdeacon De Burgh.

It was proposed by Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*, seconded by the Earl of Mayo, *President*, and passed unanimously—

“That the Society, while accepting with regret the resignation by Canon Sherlock of the post of *Hon. Editor* of the Society, beg to tender him their sincere thanks for the able way in which he carried out the duties of the office for the past two years.”

On the Motion of the Earl of Mayo, seconded by Lord Walter FitzGerald, the Rev. Denis Murphy was unanimously elected to the office of Hon. Editor of the Society to edit the Journal and Publications of the Society.

On the Motion of Lord Walter FitzGerald, seconded by Rev. Denis Murphy, the following Resolution was passed—

“That steps be taken by the County Kildare Archæological Society to prevent the demolition of the Great Moat at Rathmore, which is now being used as a gravel pit by the road contractors.”

The Earl of Mayo read the following letter which he had received from the Duchess of Leinster acknowledging the receipt of the vote of condolence passed by the Society at their Meeting January 17th, 1894, on the death of the late Duke of Leinster, the first President of the Society, expressing her great appreciation of the Society’s message of sympathy :—

“DUNCOMBE PARK, HELMSLEY.

“MY DEAR LORD MAYO,—Many thanks for sending me the vote of condolence passed by the Kildare Archæological Society.

“I cannot say how much the kind words of sympathy that have reached me from all sides have touched and pleased me.

“My husband took especial interest in the Archæological Society of County Kildare, and I thank the Members very much for their message of sympathy.

“Yours ever sincerely,

“(Signed)

H. LEINSTER.

“Jan. 31, 1894.”

Her Grace’s letter was ordered to be inserted in the Minutes.

It was decided that the Excursion Meeting for the ensuing Session of the Society should take place at Kildare and district in September.

The following Papers were then read :—

1. “Notes on a recently-discovered Crannog in county Kildare, being the only one at present known to exist within the county, with an outline sketch of Crannogs in general.” By Colonel P. D. Vigors.

2. “The Pale.” By the Rev. Denis Murphy, M.R.I.A.

3. “Notes on the Southern Boundary of the ancient Kingdom of Meath where it passed through North Kildare.” By Rev. E. O’Leary.

4. “Incidents in the Life of Garrett More, 8th Earl of Kildare.” By Lord Walter FitzGerald, *Hon. Secretary*.

5. “Description of two Armorial Slabs at Johnstown Bridge, Carbury.” By Arthur Vicars, F.S.A., *Ulster, Hon. Secretary*.

6. "Irish Art as shown on ancient Irish Crosses." By Rev. Denis Murphy, M.R.I.A. Illustrated by Lime-light Views of the principal Irish Crosses.

Thanks were returned to the Authors of the several Papers, which were referred to the Hon. Editor for publication in the JOURNAL.

Lord Walter Fitz Gerald exhibited the ancient Ecclesiastical Bell of Castledermot, preserved at Kilkea Castle; an Encaustic Tile from Bective Abbey, county Meath, bearing the Fitz-Gerald Coat-of-Arms, dating about 1500; a Celtic Bronze Brooch found at Castledermot in 1863, now at Kilkea; and a Bronze socketted Celt found near Castledermot in 1894.

Mr. G. Mansfield exhibited a small illuminated Prayer-book on vellum with rubricated letters, date *circa* 1490, formerly in the possession of William Latton, Fellow of Wadham College, Oxford.

Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*, exhibited a number of Heraldic MSS., an original MS. of the Court Ceremonials of Henry VII., and a modern copy of an ancient Scottish Ruckling Pin.

The Rev. E. O'Leary and Col. P. D. Vigors also exhibited numerous objects of antiquarian interest.

The Earl of Mayo having vacated the chair, the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford was moved to the second chair, and votes of thanks were passed to those gentlemen who had kindly lent exhibits for the meeting, and to the High Sheriff of the County Kildare for the use of the Court House.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Earl of Mayo for presiding.

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#### REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1894.

The Council are happy to report that the Society continues to prosper, and has done much in the year 1894 to enlighten Members on the history and antiquities of the County, as the pages of the JOURNAL testify.

The Roll of Members now musters over 130, which is certainly encouraging when we think of the short time the Society has been in existence and the comparatively limited area of its work.

They regret to have to record the death of a Member of the Council, Archdeacon De Burgh, who always took an ardent interest in the Society. For some time, owing to ill health, he was unable to take an active part in the work of the Society, and we had missed him at our meetings. As an accomplished scholar he stood in the front rank, and it is with sincere regret

that we have to call upon the Members to elect a new Member to fill the vacancy thus caused on the Council.

The first Meeting of the year 1894 was held in the Town Hall, Naas, at which some excellent Papers were read, all of which have since been published in the JOURNAL.

At this Meeting, according to custom, the place of the Summer Excursion Meeting was decided upon, and Castledermot, Kilkea, and district, was selected. As a special account of the Excursion Meeting will appear in the JOURNAL it is unnecessary for us to allude to it further, beyond expressing our thanks to the Rev. Martin Walsh, P. P., for preparing the grounds of the Franciscan Abbey; to Mr. J. M. Royse for the trouble and expense he went to in having the ivy on the abbey ruins removed preparatory to the Excursion; and to the Rev. C. Ganley, Rector of Castledermot, for the use of the schoolhouse at Castledermot, wherein luncheon was served. They wish also to thank Lord Walter FitzGerald for his exertions in organizing the carriage arrangements at Castledermot, always the difficulty to be contended with at these Excursion Meetings.

Since the last Report of Council the report of the committee appointed to look after the details of the restoration of Moone Cross has been published, giving full particulars of the undertaking.

The Hon. Treasurer will present his Report, which shows the financial condition of the Society to be most satisfactory.

Canon Sherlock, who accepted the duties of Editor of the JOURNAL at the January Meeting, 1893, and acted in that capacity ever since, has asked to be relieved of the office, owing to temporary absence abroad. While accepting Canon Sherlock's resignation the Council desire to put on record their great sense of obligation to him for having acted as Hon. Editor in such an efficient manner: only the officers of the Society can be aware of the arduous work such a post entails. You will be asked to elect a new Hon. Editor.

Two Members of the Council, Rev. Canon Sherlock and Rev. Denis Murphy, retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

MAYO, *President.*

ARTHUR VICARS, *Ulster,* } *Hon. Secretaries.*  
W. FITZGERALD,

Dated this 24th day of January, 1895.

## EXCURSION MEETING, 1894.

The fourth Annual Excursion Meeting took place on Tuesday, the 18th September, at Castledermot, Kilkea, and district.

A special train was run from Kildare to Mageney, in connection with the morning trains on the main line.

On the arrival of the train at Mageney, the company betook themselves to the vehicles which were provided by the Society for the conveyance of the Members to the various places to be visited during the day, and under the conductorship of Lord Walter FitzGerald, who, with Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Ulster*, had charge of the arrangements for the day, a long procession of vehicles started for Castledermot, three and a-half miles distant, where the forces of the Society were augmented by others who had driven from contiguous parts of the county. All assembled in the ruins of the Franciscan Abbey to hear a Paper of deep research read by the Vice-President of the Society, Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, who traced the history of the old abbey down from remote ages.

The next move was for the Church, where Lord Walter FitzGerald gave a short dissertation on the Round Tower attached to the church, on which subject he had already written a Paper in the JOURNAL.

The chief interest in the churchyard however, was centred in the Old Celtic Cross, which had been restored by a former Duke of Leinster.

Miss Margaret Stokes (Hon. Member of the K.A.S.) gave a most interesting lecture on the fine Old Cross, describing the various scenes carved on the sides, and touching generally on the archæology and history of Old Celtic Crosses, on which subject Miss Stokes is one of our greatest authorities.

The peculiar "hole stone" close by was pointed out and discoursed on by Lord Walter FitzGerald, after which luncheon was the order of the day. The company proceeded to the adjoining schoolhouse, kindly lent for the purpose by the Rev. C. Ganly, where Lord Walter FitzGerald had made most ample arrangements for those who had sent in their names for luncheon a few days before.

The Members and their friends then drove to Kilkea, some three and a-half miles distant, first visiting the ruins of the old church of Kilkea, Rev. C. Ganly shortly detailing its history, after which they proceeded to the Castle a few yards off, where they were received by the Ladies FitzGerald, and having taken



up their position on the terrace, which formed an admirable natural lecture theatre, with the Castle in the background, the Rev. C. Ganly commenced a Paper on Kilkea Castle, which will be published in the JOURNAL.

The whole Company then adjourned to the interior of the Castle to inspect the quaint old building, which is an admirable specimen of an Irish feudal castle, adapted to modern usage, with walls of prodigious thickness. Many antiquities were to be seen in the hall, and some interesting historical portraits, but we must remember that although this is the original residence of the FitzGerald of ancient days, still Carton is now the principal seat of that family, where naturally are to be found its chief treasures and objects of historical family interest.

The Ladies FitzGerald had kindly invited the Society to tea, which formed a very welcome termination to the day's proceedings. Mr. Mansfield having photographed those present in the Castle grounds, and it being now late, the party separated on the return journey to Mageney and Athy, to catch their various trains, having spent a very enjoyable day in most magnificent weather. On the whole the Members of the Society have reason to congratulate themselves on their annual excursions, which hitherto have always worked so satisfactorily, and given the Society quite a reputation for its Excursion Meetings.

The following Members and Visitors took part in the Excursion :—

The Earl of Mayo (*President*); The Countess of Mayo; Most Rev. Dr. Comerford (*Vice-President*); Mr. and Mrs. Cooke Trench; Mr. D. Mahony; Mr. H. Hendrick-Aylmer, High Sheriff (*Hon. Treasurer*); Colonel Bonham; Miss Bonham; Mr. Mark Taylor; Mr. Casimir O' Meagher; Mr. and Mrs. Mackay Wilson; Lord Walter FitzGerald (*Hon. Secretary*); Mr. Arthur Vicars, Ulster King-of-Arms (*Hon. Secretary*); The Dean of Kildare, and Mrs. Cowell; Rev. C. W. Ganly; Very Rev. Thomas Tynan; Rev. Denis Murphy; Lady Weldon; Captain Weldon; Miss Margaret Stokes, Hon. Member, K.A.S.; Colonel Vigors; Mr. and Mrs. Grove White; Mr. W. R. J. Molloy; Mr. S. J. Brown; Rev. J. F. M. French; Mr. T. J. Hannon; Rev. W. Elliott; Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe; Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sweetman; Mr. and Mrs. Carroll, and Miss Carroll; Rev. E. O'Leary; Rev. E. Hogan; Rev. J. Dunne; Major and Mrs. Rynd; Rev. M. Devitt; Very Rev. Dr. Burke; Rev. M. Walsh; Mr. L. Dunne; Colonel Wilson; Mrs. Wall and Miss Scovill; Surgeon-Major Keogh; Miss Archbold; Lady Eva FitzGerald; Lady Mabel FitzGerald; Mr. J. Whiteside Dane; Mr. George Mansfield and Mrs. Mansfield; Rev. Canon Travers-Smith; Rev. D. Meake; Mr. Gerald FitzGerald; Mr. A. Warburton; Mr. Morgan Mooney; Miss Power; Miss Manders; Mrs. Ross; Miss Browne; Mrs. Blake; Mrs. Engledow; Rev. A. Kirkpatrick; Rev. P. Connolly; Miss Jones; Mr. R. L. Weldon; Mrs. and Miss Taylor; Mr. W. T. Kirkpatrick; Mr. and Mrs. Vipond Barry; Rev. J. D. Osborne, and Mrs. Osborne; Miss Braham; Miss Elliott; Miss Awdry; Miss H. M. Heathcote; Miss M. Manders; Mr. Thynne, c.b.; Mrs. Woollcombe; Mr. R. L. Woollcombe; Rev. Mr. Mackey; Rev. Mr. Gormley; Miss Burroughs; Miss Boyd; Mr. Nicholas J. Synnott; Rev. J. Bird; Mr. Arthur Hade, c.e.; Rev. B. C. Davidson Houston; Rev. James Adams; Mr. Thomas Greene; Mr. R. R. Kennedy, r.m.

H. HENDRICK-AYLMER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1893.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Balance to Credit, December 31st, 1892, . . . . .	98 13 5	By Messrs. Ponsonby & Weldrick, for—	
„ Subscriptions:—		Printing JOURNAL, Vol. I., No. 1, £22 12 4	
2 Life Members, . . . . .	10 0 0	Miscellaneous items, . . . . .	6 7 5
107 Annual Members, . . . . .	53 10 0		<hr/>
3 do. (1892), . . . . .	1 0 0	„ Boatmen at Rheban, at September Meeting, 1892	28 19 9
		(per Rev. J. Carroll), . . . . .	1 0 0
		„ F. Carroll, Esq., expenses restoring Cross at	
		Moone, . . . . .	5 0 0
		„ J. Nicholls, providing six wagonettes for Sep-	
		tember Meeting, 1893, . . . . .	9 0 0
		„ Naas Town Commissioners, for use of Town	
		Hall, January Meeting, 1893, . . . . .	0 10 0
		„ Miss Mauders, expenses of photographing for	
		Society, . . . . .	1 13 0
		„ Banker's Charges, . . . . .	0 0 6
		„ Stationery and Postage, . . . . .	3 15 2
		„ Balance, 31st December, 1893, . . . . .	113 5 0
			<hr/>
	£163 3 5		£163 3 5

I have examined above Account, compared it with the Vouchers, and certify that same is correct,

November 29th, 1894.

J. R. SUTCLIFFE, Auditor.



## LIST OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

(CORRECTED TO JANUARY 24, 1895.)

## President :

THE EARL OF MAYO.

## Vice-President :

THE MOST REV. MICHAEL COMERFORD, D. D.,  
*Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.*

## Council :

(IN ORDER OF ELECTION.)

THOMAS COOKE TRENCH, ESQ., D.L.  
GEORGE MANSFIELD, ESQ., D.L.  
THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A.  
THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., LL.D., M.R.I.A.  
THE REV. EDWARD O'LEARY, P.P.  
THOMAS J. DE BURGHI, ESQ., D.L.

## Hon. Treasurer :

HANS HENDRICK-AYLMER, ESQ., KERDIFFSTOWN, NAAS.

## Hon. Secretaries :

LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A., KILKEA CASTLE, MAGENEX.  
ARTHUR VICARS, ESQ., F.S.A., *Ulster*, CLYDE-ROAD, DUBLIN.

## Hon. Editor :

THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,  
ST. STEPHEN'S-GREEN, DUBLIN.

## Members :

[Officers are indicated by heavy type ; Life Members by an asterisk (\*).]

Adams, Rev. James, Kill Rectory, Straffan.  
Archbold, Miss, Davidstown, Castledermot.  
Aylmer, Miss, Donadea Castle. Co. Kildare.  
Aylmer, Algernon, Rathmore. Naas.  
**AYLMER, H. HENDRICK-**. Hon. Treasurer, Kerdiffstown, Naas

- \*Barton, Major H. L., D.L., Straffan House, Straffan.  
 Bonham, Colonel J., Ballintaggart, Colbinstown, Co. Kildare.  
 Bird, Rev. John T., Curragh Camp.  
 Brooke, J. T., St. David's, Naas.  
 Brown, Stephen J., Naas.  
 Browne, Rev. Hawtrey, Victoria Cottage, Fermoy.  
 Burke, Very Rev. E., P.P., Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.  
 Burtchaell, G. D., M.A., 7, St. Stephen's-green, Dublin.
- Cane, Major Claude, St. Wolstan's, Celbridge.  
 Carberry, Rev. Thomas, P.P., The Presbytery, Ballitore.  
 Carroll, Frederick, Moone Abbey, Moone.  
 Carroll, Rev. James, C.C., Howth, Co. Dublin.
- \*Clements, Colonel, Killadoon, Celbridge.  
 Clements, Mrs., Killadoon, Celbridge.
- \*Clements, Henry J. B., D.L., Killadoon, Celbridge.  
 Coady, D. P., M.D., Johnstown, Straffan.  
 Cochrane, Robert, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., Hon. Secretary R.S.A.I., 17, Highfield-road, Rathgar.  
 Cole, Rev. J. F., The Rectory, Portarlington.
- COMERFORD, Most Rev. M., D.D.**, Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, **Vice-President**, Braganza, Carlow.
- Conmee, Rev. J. F., S.J., University College, Dublin.  
 Coote, Stanley, Arden, Dulwich, Surrey.  
 Cowell, Very Rev. G. Y., Dean of Kildare, The Deanery, Kildare.  
 Crosby, Rev. E. Lewis, 36, Rutland-square, Dublin.
- Dames, R. S. Longworth, 21, Herbert-street, Dublin.  
 Dane, J. Whiteside, Osberstown Hill, Naas.  
 Darby, M., M.D., Monasterevan.  
 Day, Robert, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., 3, Sydney-place, Cork.  
 Dease, Colonel G., Celbridge Abbey, Celbridge.
- DE BURGH, THOMAS J.**, D.L., Oldtown, Naas.
- Devitt, Rev. Mathew, S.J., Clongowes Wood College, Salins.  
 Doyle, Rev. J. J., Derrycappagh, Mountmellick, Queen's County.  
 Drew, Thomas, R.H.A., M.R.I.A., P.R.S.A.I., Gortnadrew, Monkstown.  
 Duncan, J. A., Athy.  
 Dunne, Rev. John, Clane.  
 Dunne, Laurence, J.P., Dollardstown House, Athy.
- Elliott, Rev. William, The Manse, Naas.
- Falkiner, F. J., M.D., Spring Gardens, Naas.  
 Ffrench, Rev. J. F. M., M.R.I.A., Ballyredmond House, Clonegal.
- \*Fitz Gerald, Lady Eva, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.  
 \*Fitz Gerald, Lord Frederick, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.  
 \*Fitz Gerald, Lord George, King's House, Kingston, Jamaica.  
 \***FITZGERALD, LORD WALTER, M.R.I.A.**, **Hon. Secretary**, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.  
 Fitz Gerald, Rev. W., The Vicarage, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.  
 Fogarty, Rev. M., Professor, Maynooth College.  
 Follis, Rev. C. W., Emily-square, Athy.

- Ganly, Rev. C. W., Kilkea Rectory, Mageny, Co. Kildare.  
 Garrett, Rev. George, Kilmeague, Co. Kildare.  
 Garstin, J. Ribton, D.L., F.S.A., M.R.I.A., Braganstown, Castlebellingham,  
 Co. Louth.  
 Glover, Edward, 19, Prince Patrick-terrace, North Circular-road, Dublin.  
 Greene, Thomas, LL.D., Millbrook, Mageny.
- Hade, Arthur, c.e., Carlow.  
 Hannon, Thomas J., Millview House, Athy.  
 Higginson, Lady, Connellmore, Newbridge.  
 Hoguet, Madame Henry L., 48, West Twenty-eighth-street, New York.  
 Houston, Rev. B. C. Davidson, St. John's Vicarage, Sydney Parade, Dublin.
- Jessen, Rev. J. L., Castledermot, Co. Kildare.  
 Johnson, Miss, Prumplestown House, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.
- Kennedy, Rev. H., St. David's Rectory, Naas.  
 Kennedy, Robert R., R.M., Carlow.  
 Keogh, Surgeon-Major T. R., Castleroe, Mageny, Co. Kildare.  
 Kirkpatrick, William, Donacomper, Celbridge.
- Large, Rev. W. Somerville-, Carnalway Rectory, Kilcullen.  
 La Touche, Mrs. John, Harristown, Brannoxtown.  
 Loch, J., C.I.R.I.C., The Firs, Naas.  
 Long, Miss A. F., Woodfield, Kilcavan, Geashill.  
 McMahon, General, Craddockstown, Naas.  
 McMahon, Mrs., Craddockstown, Naas.  
 McSweeney, J. G., 18, Claremount-road, Sandymount, Dublin.  
 Maguire, Rev. E., D.D., Professor, Maynooth College.  
 Maguire, P. A., 2, Oldtown-terrace, Naas.  
 Mahony, David, D.L., Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.  
 Mahony, George Gun, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.  
**MANSFIELD, GEORGE**, Morristown Lattin, Naas.  
 Mayo, Dowager Countess of, 20, Eaton-square, London, S.W.  
**MAYO, The EARL OF**, President, Palmerstown, Straffan.  
 Molloy, E., Abbeyfield, Naas.  
 Molloy, William R., M.R.I.A., 17, Brookfield-terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin.  
 \*Moran, His Eminence Cardinal, Sydney, N. S. Wales.  
 Morrin, Rev. Thomas, P.P., Naas.  
**MURPHY, Rev. DENIS**, S.J., LL.D., M.R.I.A., **Hon. Editor**, University College,  
 St. Stephen's-green, Dublin.  
 Murphy, Very Rev. Michael, P.P., St. Brigid's, Kildare.
- \*O'Ferrall, Ambrose More, D.L., Ballyna, Moyvalley.  
 O'Hanlon, Very Rev. Canon, 3, Leahy's-terrace, Sandymount, Dublin.  
**O'LEARY, Rev. E.**, P.P., Ballyna, Moyvalley.  
 O'Leary, Rev. Patrick, Maynooth College.  
 O'Meagher, J. Casimir, M.R.I.A., 45, Mountjoy-square, S., Dublin.  
 Owen, Arthur, Blessington. Co. Wicklow.

Palmer, Charles Colley, D.L., Rahan, Edenderry.  
 Ponsonby, Hon. Gerald, Palmerstown, Straffan.  
 Ponsonby, Lady Maria, Palmerstown, Straffan.  
 Pratt, Mrs., Glenheste, Manor-Kilbride, Co. Dublin.

Rynd, Major R. F., Blackhall, Naas.

Saunders, Colonel R., D.L., Saunders' Grove, Stratford-on-Slaney.  
 Seaton, Lord, Bert House, Athy.  
**SHERLOCK, Rev. Canon**, Sherlockstown, Naas.  
 Skuse, Rev. Richard D., Ballykean Rectory, Portarlington.  
 Steede, J., LL.D., Dundalk.  
 Stoney, Colonel, The Downs, Delgany.  
 Supple, K., D.I.R.I.C., Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.  
 Sutcliffe, J. R., Hibernian Bank, Naas.  
 Sweetman, E., Longtown, Naas.  
 Sweetman, Mrs., Longtown, Naas.  
 Synnott, Nicholas, 14, Herbert-crescent, Hans-place, London, S.W.

Taylor, Mark, Golden Fort, Baltinglass.  
 Thornhill, F. Evelyn, Rathangan House, Rathangan.  
**TRENCH, THOMAS COOKE, D.L.**, Millicent, Naas.  
 Trench, Mrs. Cooke, Millicent, Naas.  
 Tynan, Rev. W., P.P., Newbridge.

**VICARS, ARTHUR, F. S. A.**, Ulster King-of-Arms, Hon. Secretary, Clyde-  
 road, Dublin.  
 Vigers, Colonel P. D., Holloden, Bagenalstown.

Wall, Colonel J., Knockareagh, Grange Con.  
 Wall, Mrs., Knockareagh, Grange Con.  
 Walsh, Rev. Martin, P.P., Castledermot, Co. Kildare.  
 Watt, David, Stackallan, Navan.  
 Welch, Robert J., 49, Lonsdale-street, Belfast.  
 Weldon, General, Forenaughts, Naas.  
 Weldon, Captain A. A., Kilmorony, Athy.  
 Weldon, Lady, Kilmorony, Athy.  
 Wheeler, W. I., M.D., F.R.C.S.I., 32, Merrion-square, N., Dublin.  
 White, W. Grove, 13, Upper Ormond-quay, Dublin.  
 Willis, G. de L., 4, Kildare-street, Dublin.  
 Wilson, Colonel W. F., The Vicarage, Clane.  
 Wilson, Robert M., Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.  
 Wilson, Mrs. R. M., Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.  
 Wilson, Miss R. Dupré, Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.  
 Wolfe, George, Bishopsland, Ballymore-Eustace, Naas.  
 Woollecombe, Robert L., LL.D., M.R.I.A., 14, Waterloo-road, Dublin.  
 \*Wright, Professor E. Perceval, M.D., Hon. Secretary R.I.A., 5, Trinity College,  
 Dublin.

*Hon. Member :*

Miss Margaret Stokes.

## RULES.

I. That this Society be called "The County Kildare Archæological Society."

II. That the purpose of the Society be the promotion of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

III. That the Society consist of a President, Vice-President, Council, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and Members. Ladies are eligible for Membership.

IV. That the affairs of the Society be managed by the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries, together with a Council of six Members. That for ordinary business two shall form a quorum; but any matter upon which a difference of opinion arises shall be reserved for another meeting, in which three shall form a quorum.

V. That two Members of the Council shall retire by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

VI. That Members pay an Annual Subscription of Ten Shillings (due on the 1st of January), and that the payment of £5 shall constitute a Life Member.

VII. That Meetings of the Society be held not less than twice in each year, one Meeting being an excursion to some place of archæological interest in the district.

VIII. That at the first Meeting of the Society in each year the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a balance-sheet.

IX. That a JOURNAL of the Society be published annually, containing the Proceedings and a column for local Notes and Queries, which shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

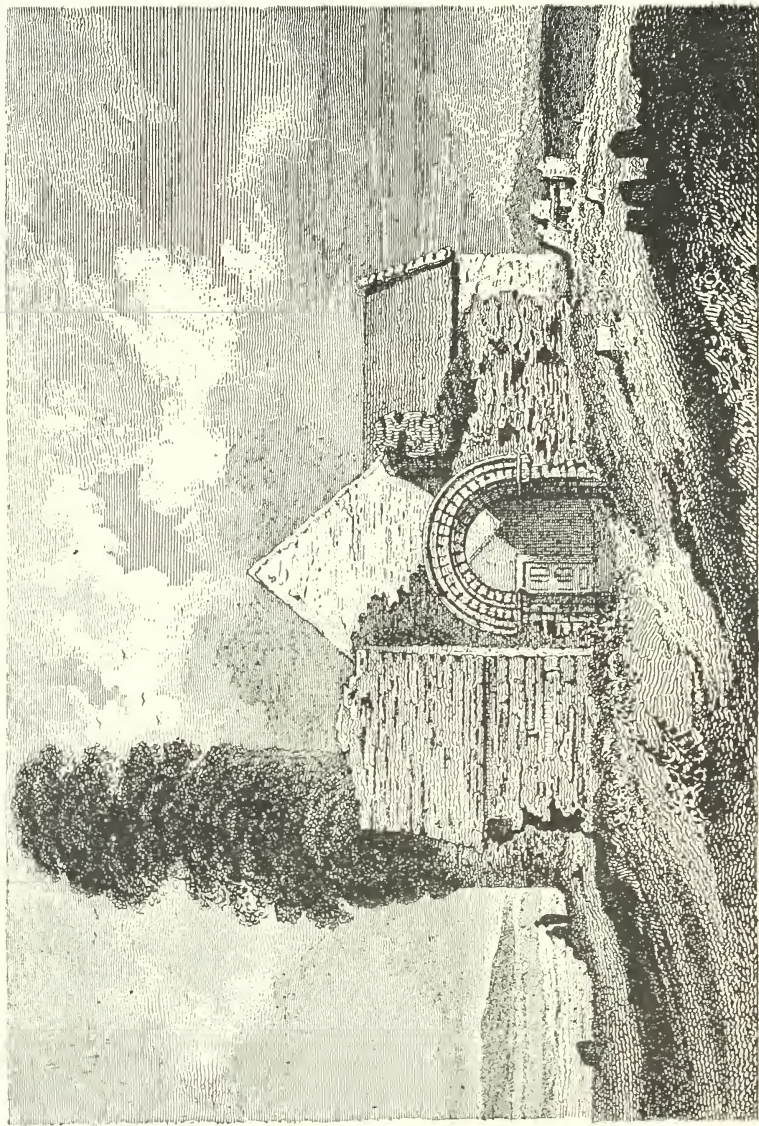
X. That the Meetings of the year be fixed by the Council, due notice of the dates of the Meetings being given to Members.

XI. That Members be at liberty to introduce visitors at the Meetings of the Society.

XII. No Member shall receive the JOURNAL if his Subscription for the previous year be not paid.







THE ROUND TOWER AND CHURCH AT CASTLEDERMOT A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

Showing the ancient Western Doorway, which still stands *in situ*.

Taken from Vol. III. of Thomas Cromwell's "Excursions through Ireland."



THE ANCIENT WESTERN DOORWAY OF THE CHURCH AT CASTLEDERMOT.  
(From a photograph by Miss Johnson, of Prumplestown House.)

*CASTLEDERMOT:*  
*ITS HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES.*

BY THE MOST REV. DR. COMERFORD.

LIKE so many other towns in Ireland and elsewhere, Castledermot owes its origin to a Religious House which flourished here from an early period. About the year 500 A.D., St. Diarmaid, a holy recluse, chose this place for his Hermitage, and from him it came to be named *Disert Diarmada*, that is, the Hermitage of Diarmaid, afterwards changed to *Tristledermot*, a word having the same signification, *tristle*, according to Joyce, being a corrupt form of *disert*. St. Diarmaid is registered in the Martyrology of Tallaght at 21st of June, the day on which his feast was celebrated. He was of the race of Fiatach Finn, monarch of Erin, and his genealogy is given in the Book of Lecan (O'Hanlon). The monastery, which had its beginning in the humble cell of this Saint, became, in the course of the three succeeding centuries, distinguished as a place of learning, in evidence of which we find Cormac Mac Cullenan, afterwards King of Munster, and Bishop of Cashel—of whom more will be said later on—resorting hither for his education.

## ANNALS OF DISERT DIARMADA.

841 A.D.—This place was plundered by the foreigners of Cael-uisce (Narrow-water, County Down).—“Four Masters.”

842 A.D.—Cumsudh, son of Deruo, and Maenach, son of Sadchadh, who were both bishops and anchorites, died here in one night.—*Id.* The Danes plundered and sacked this abbey, but whether in this year (842) or 844 is uncertain.—“Tr. Thaum.”

867 A.D.—Eodais, son of Dougal, suffered martyrdom here from the foreigners.—“Four Masters.”

871 A.D.—St. Moylervayn, abbot, and also of Killegie and Tihelly, died.—“Mac Geoghegan.” The “Four Masters” record this event under the year 884.

874 A.D.—Fedach, son of Seghini, abbot, died.—“Four Masters.”

885 A.D.—Sneidhuis, wise man of Disert Diarmada, tutor of Cormac MacCullenan, died.—*Id.*

895 A.D.—Muirghias, bishop and abbot, died.—*Id.*

907 (or 908) A.D.—Cormac MacCullenan, archbishop of Cashel, and King of Munster, who had been educated at Disert Diarmada, was slain, and was interred here.—“Ware’s Bishops.” Dr. Lanigan thus refers to this event:—

“By far the most celebrated man of these times in Ireland was Cormac MacCullenan, who was not only Bishop of Cashel but likewise King there, that is, of all Munster, of which that city was the capital. Little is known concerning the earlier part of Cormac’s life. He was born in 837, and was of the Eugenic branch of the royal house of Munster. That he was educated for the ecclesiastical state is evident from his having been possessed of great learning, for the acquisition of which he must have spent a great part of his time amidst the tranquillity of college or religious establishments. It is said that he was instructed by Snegdus, a learned and pious abbot of Castledermot, and it is certain that he was a bishop before he became a king. . . . While he was governing his kingdom in peace, Flann, King of All Ireland, and Cearbhal, King of Leinster, marched with an army towards Munster, and laid waste the whole country between Gowran and Limerick. But in the following year, Cormac, accompanied by Flathertach, Abbot of Inniscathy, a man of a very military disposition, set out with the forces of Munster, and gave battle to Flann and his confederates at Magh-leana, in the present King’s County, and defeated them with great loss, Flann being forced to submit and give hostages to Cormac. Flann did not long submit to this degradation, but, together with Cearbhal of Leinster and others, raised a large army, which was met, in 908, at Bellagh-Mugna (Ballymoon, in Idrone, county Carlow), by Cormac, at the head of the forces of Munster and Ossory. A desperate battle then took place, in which Cormac was killed by one Fiacha, and, along with him, several nobles and princes, besides about 6000 of their followers. The battle is said to have been fought on the 16th of August, and some writers

place the scene of it at Moy-albe, or the White Field ; this, however, does not imply any difference of situation, for Moy-albe was near Beallagh-Mugna, being in the vicinity of Old Leighlin \*

It is stated by some writers that Cormac's death was occasioned by a fall from his horse during the heat of the battle ; while, according to another account, he did not engage in the battle at all, but was praying apart for the success of his army when a herdsman coming up put him to death. † Cormac was accompanied in this unfortunate expedition by several ecclesiastics, some of whom actually fought in the battle. Cormac reluctantly engaged in this expedition out of his own country, and wished to compromise matters, both because he loved peace, and is said to have had a foreknowledge of his death in case of an engagement taking place. The chief fomentor of it is stated to have been the furious Flathertach, Abbot of Inniscathy, who was one of the principal commanders in the battle. This martial spirit, which unluckily insinuated itself among the Irish clergy, originated in the contests against the Pagan Northmen in which they were involved, and some of them were almost forced to take up arms to defend themselves and their establishments against those barbarious and savage invaders. But whatever apology may be made for those who fought against the Danes, or for Cormac, who, as a king, was bound to protect his subjects whosoever the enemy might be, none can be found for such conduct as that of Flathertach, if what is stated of him be true. Previous to the engagement Cormac made his confession to Comghall, a member of the religious community at Castledermot, and made his will, in which he bequeathed various sacred ornaments, gold and silver, &c., to divers churches and religious places. His reputation for piety, wisdom, and learning, was so great that he was considered the most eminent man of his time in Ireland. He wrote, amongst other works, the celebrated Psalter or Chronicle of Cashel, in which he treated of the history and antiquities of Ireland. It has been considered as of the highest authority, and was still extant in the 17th century. Only portions of it are now known to exist. The beautiful small church, now called Cormac's chapel, on the Rock of Cashel, is universally allowed to have been erected by this king and bishop. ‡—LANIGAN'S "Ecc. Hist. of Ireland," c. xxii.

Cormac had directed that his body should be buried at the church of Disert Diarmada, with the Abbot Snegdus, whose pupil he had been. Here, in the same grave as his old master, and amid the scenes of his early youth, he willed that he should rest, in case his remains were not interred in the church of Cluain-Umha (Cloyne), to which he gave the preference. He was, however, buried at Disert Diarmada.—"Fragments, Annals of Ireland, I. A. S.," p. 213. Near the Protestant church, to the left as one approaches the modern entrance, and between it

\* Some recent writers have erroneously supposed the scene of this battle to have been another Ballymoon, in the County Kildare, being probably led into this mistake from its proximity to Castledermot, where Cormac was interred.

† I have read in a certain ms. of Cotton's Library, that he (Cormac) was killed by a herdsman at Beaurée, near Leighlin, while he was on his knees at prayers for the success of his army then engaged.—Ware, ch. xxi.

‡ The builder of Cormac's chapel was Cormac M'Carthy. See Petrie's "Round Towers," p. 290.

and the ancient doorway, is still to be seen a large stone rudely formed into the shape of a coffin, with a cross indented on it, and extending the whole length and width of the stone. Under this stone, tradition says, lies interred the King of Munster, generally identified as Cormac MacCullenan.—“Ord. Survey Letter.”

919 A.D.—St. Carpreus, son of Feradach . . . Abbot of Disert Diarmada, and anchorite and head of religion among the Lagenians, venerable by years and merits, died.—“Colgan, A. SS.” 1, 137.

921 A.D.—The Abbot Mulcallen, died.—*Id.*

935 A.D.—Aireachteach, Abbot, died.—“Four Masters.”

943 A.D.—Guaire, son of Scalbhaigh, Abbot, died.—*Id.*

963 A.D.—Colman, Abbot, died.—*Id.*

967 A.D.—Muiregan, Abbot, died.—*Id.*

1037 A.D.—Dunchadh, son of Dunlaing, King of Leinster, was captured at Disert Diarmada, and his eyes put out by Donogh, son of Giolla Patrick (Fitzpatrick), of which he died shortly after.—*Id.*

1038 A.D.—O’Gabaidh, The Sage, distinguished Bishop of Disert Diarmada, died.—*Id.*

1040 A.D.—The Abbey was plundered in this year.—“Tr. Thaum.”

1042 A.D.—McGrath, son of Gorman MacFrassy, lord of Ui-Bairrehe, and his wife were slain here by the Ui Baillain.—*Id.*

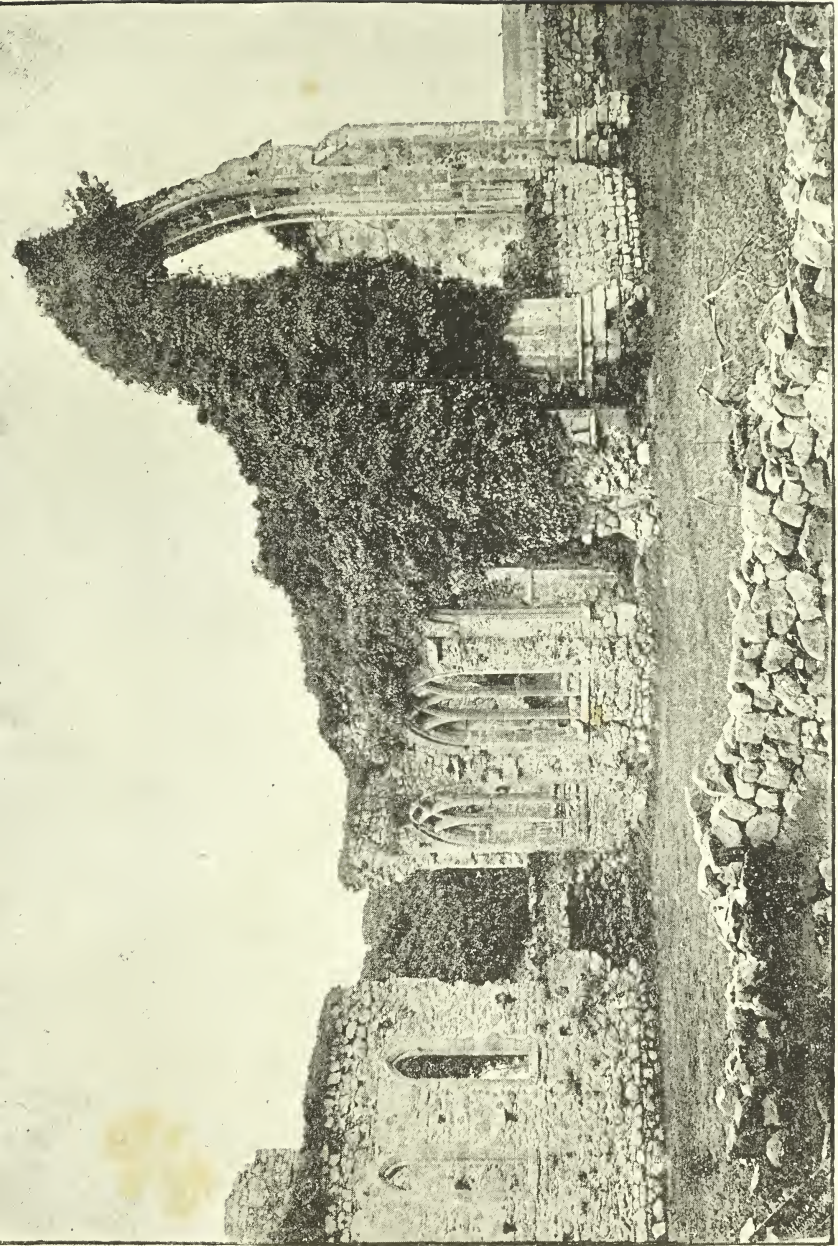
1048 A.D.—Maen Cholium-chille, Disert Diarmada, Moghna-moshenog, and Cluinmor-maedhog (*i. e.* Moone, Castledermot, Dunmanoge, and Clonmore) were plundered by Diarmaid, son of Mael-na-mbo, lord of Hi-Cinseallaigh, and he carried many persons away from these oratories.—*Id.*

1054 A.D.—Cuileannan Clean, lector of Leighlin and Disert Diarmada, died.—*Id.*

1073 A.D.—Cobhtach, abbot, died.—“Ware’s Monasticon.”

1076 A.D.—A great slaughter was commenced by O’Lorcain on the people of Giolla Comghoill, and he brought three score and three heads to the hill south of Disert Diarmada.—“Four Masters.”

1123 A.D. (*circa*).—A son was born to Moriertach O’Toole and his wife, of the clan O’Byrne. This child was the future Archbishop of Dublin, the patriotic St. Laurence O’Toole. His father was the Chief of Hy-Mureadaigh, the district in which Castledermot now stands. In the Life of the Archbishop we are told that he was sent by his father from his residence, in or near Castledermot, to a chieftain at Kildare named Donat or



EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE LADY CHAPEL ATTACHED TO THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY, CASTLEDERMOT.





Dermot, who was charged with the duty of presenting the child at the baptismal font, on which occasion he received the name Lorcan, which has been anglicised Laurence. As the father of the saint and Donat appear not to have been on friendly terms previously, the birth of the child was availed of as an opportunity for reconciliation ; probably, also, in compliment to Donat and to accommodate him, the ceremony was fixed to take place at Kildare. When about ten years old, Laurence was delivered as a hostage into the hands of Dermot Mac Murrough, King of Leinster, who treated him with great cruelty. He was next placed under the care of the Abbot of Glendalough, and shortly after made choice of the religious state. Thirteen years later, and when only in his twenty-fifth year, he was chosen abbot, and in 1162, on the See of Dublin becoming vacant, Laurence was unanimously chosen Archbishop, and was consecrated in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity, now Christ's Church. It was during his episcopate that the English invasion of Ireland took place. The traitor Mac Morrough and his allies invested Dublin in 1169, but, chiefly through the exertions of the Archbishop in rousing the citizens to the defence of the capital, the assailants were repulsed. In the following year, however, the attempt was renewed, and this time with success, owing to dissensions amongst the leaders. St. Laurence warmly espoused the cause of the Irish High-King, Roderick O'Conor, and made more than one journey to the English Court on his behalf. On one of these occasions he followed King Henry to Normandy, and on his journey homeward he took sick, and died at the Monastery of Eu in 1182, and was interred there in what is now the parish church. A recent writer describes it as "a noble building of the Middle Ages, rising giant-like among the clustering roofs around. . . . Amongst its chapels there is one which ever arrests the stranger's attention, from the loveliness of the screen-work that encloses it, and which the inquirer is told *est la chapelle de l'archevêque Irlandais*, the chapel of St. Laurence O'Toole. . . . Here, in the crypt beneath this silent chapel, he was laid to rest 712 years ago, and his tomb—portraying his vested form, reclining on its couch of stone—owes the preservation in which we see it to the munificence of a foreign prince."—"Footprints of Irish Saints."

1173 A.D.—Richard, Earl of Pembroke (Strongbow), granted the territory of Hy-Muireadaigh to Walter de Riddlesford, one of his knights, which grant was subsequently confirmed by King John. Strongbow, perhaps, considered he had a right, besides that of conquest, to this district, through his wife, who

was granddaughter of O'Toole, the dispossessed owner, and niece of St. Laurence O'Toole.

1181 A.D.—In this year the castle was built which gave the name Castledermot to this town. According to Ware, it was built by Walter de Riddlesford; Holinshed states that Hugh de Lacy caused sundry castles and forts to be built in Leinster, one of which was at Tristledermot: another author ascribes its erection to Maurice, 3rd Baron of Offaly; finally, in the “Earls of Kildare,” Gerald, 8th Earl of Kildare, is said to have erected a castle here in 1505. The fact probably is that the castle, built for or by Walter de Riddlesford in 1181, was added to and strengthened on subsequent occasions by the others named. All traces of this castle have disappeared, but the local tradition is that it stood on the site now occupied by the Petty Sessions Courthouse.

1264 A.D.—A feud arose between the Geraldines and the De Burghs, and reached such a pitch that at a meeting held at Castledermot, Maurice, Baron of Offally, and his nephew, John Fitzthomas, seized Richard de Burgh and his allies, the Lord Justice Richard de Capella, Theobald Butler, and John de Cogan, and imprisoned them in the castles of Ley and Dunamase.—Camden, “Earls of Kildare.” It is stated in the “Annals of Loch Cé” that this outrage was perpetrated in a consecrated church.

1276 A.D.—A Parliament is said to have been held here.

1295 A.D.—A grant was made by Parliament for the enclosing of the town with walls. A small portion of these walls is still standing on the road leading to Mageney. The line of the town walls is marked on the Ordnance survey map.—No. 40, County Kildare, 6-inch scale.

In the Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland, under date 12th Edward I. (1284), we find set down the king's rent out of the lands and tenements which belonged to Christiana de Mariscis in Ireland. One of the items is—From the burgages of Tristledermot, £4 12s. 4d.; the burgh of Kilkea, 27s. 9½d., and two geese!

1315 A.D.—Edward Bruce, brother of the King of Scotland, invaded Ireland in this year, with a force of 6000 men. In January, 1316, he marched from Loughseudy, through the County of Kildare, to Rathangan, Kildare, Castledermot, Athy, Rheban, Skerries, and Ardscoil. At this last-named place the Lord Justice, Sir Edmund Butler, accompanied by Lord John Fitzthomas, encountered him, but was defeated. The Irish of Munster and Leinster, availing of the opportunity, whilst the English were engaged against Bruce, rose in arms, and the

O'Byrnes, O'Tooles, and O'Mores, overran and burned the country from Arklow to Leix. The Lord Justice, however, encountered them at Tristledermot, and made a great slaughter of them, killing about 400 of the Irish of Imayle. Whilst in possession of Castledermot, Bruce plundered the Franciscan Monastery, taking away the books, vestments, and church ornaments. He was overtaken near the town by the Lord Justice, and completely routed.

1377 A.D.—A mint was established, and a Parliament also is said to have been held here this year.

An undated letter amongst the Carew mss. refers to the presence of King Richard II. at Castledermot. It is from Lord Nellan O'Neyll to the King—the last time he was with the King at Tristledermot, the King conferred many honours on him, and commanded him, immediately after Easter, to repair to the King—is unable to come to the King's presence this time, owing to the great and troublesome affairs and grievances, because the King's grant to him is not observed, that he should have buying and selling in the King's markets and towns.

1392 A.D.—Robert, Archbishop of Dublin, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, prays for an allowance on account of his services against MacMurrough, O'Byrne, O'Toole, O'More, and the other Irish enemies who had wasted the counties of Carlow and Kildare with fire and flame. Said Robert had proceeded against them with 200 men-at-arms and archers at his own proper charge, and, besides this, at a certain Council held at Tristledermot for the better ordering the government of the land, and to commit the justiceship to the Earl of Ormonde, the said Robert came there with 200 men-at-arms and archers in his company, and tarried there for six days at his own proper charges, &c. An allowance of 50 marks was made for the reason contained in the Petition.—“Ormonde Archives.”

1393 A.D.—A great Council was held at Tristledermot before the Bishop of Meath, then Lord Justice, when a subsidy was granted to George Teyling, whose son had been given as a hostage to O'Reilly for the payment of 84 marks on condition of his not laying waste the country about Kells.—“Irish Council Roll.” We find MacMurrough bought off for a like amount not to molest the inhabitants of Castledermot. This same year a Petition was presented to the Lord Justice and Council of Ireland. “Forasmuch as the Commons of Tristledermot had made a fine to MacMurrough of four score and four marks, to the profit of the King, and the savings of the said town and the lieges dwelling therein, which fine the Commons afterwards assessed amongst themselves by common consent,

and likewise, had granted the Prior of the House of St. John there, and the Guardian of the Friars Minors, and divers other peaceable people of the counties of Kildare and Carlow, that they and their goods and chattels may have succour and refuge in the said town ; that it may please you as a work of charity to grant a commission to levy the assessed fine aforesaid, considering that the said MacMurrough would not forbear of his malice until this Thomas placed his person in pledge for the fine aforesaid." (Endorsement.) Commission made to David Wogan, Knt., and Thomas Tailour, to enquire, &c.—*Id.*

1404 A.D.—A Council was held at Tristledermot on the Monday next after the feast of St. David, Bishop, 5th Hen. IV., when a grant was made of a subsidy to the Earl of Ormonde, in consequence of the danger imminent from the enemies and rebels of the land.—“Ormonde Archives.”

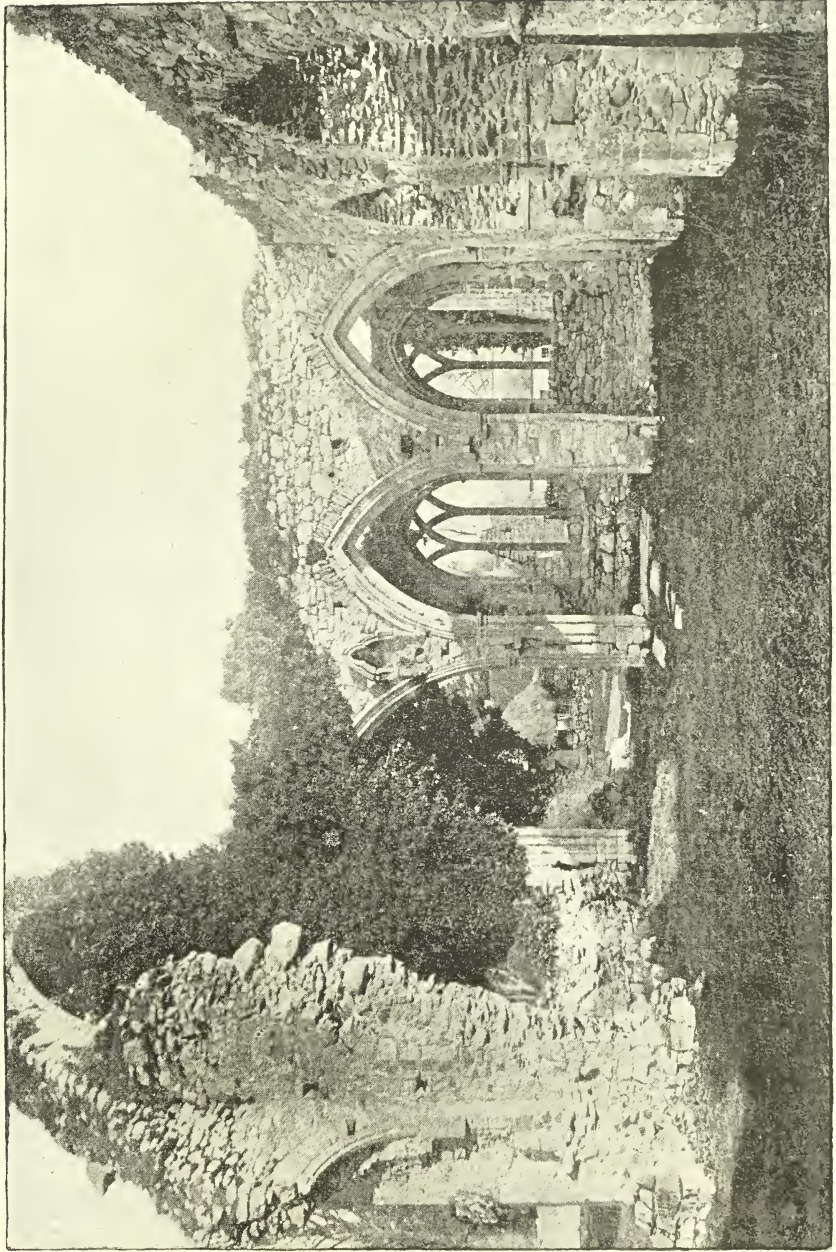
1405 A.D.—MacMurrough waged war with the English, during which the Contae Reagh (Wexford) together with Carlow and Disert Diarmada were plundered and burned.—“Four Masters.”

1408 A.D.—Stephen Scroop died at Tristledermot of the plague on the Feast of St. Marcellus.—(Marlborough).

1414 A.D.—The Irish in Leinster having taken up arms, Thomas Crawley, Archbishop of Dublin and Lord Justice, advanced as far as Tristledermot with a small army to oppose them. He remained there in prayer with his clergy for their success. They defeated the enemy at Kilkea with a loss of 100 men.

1485 A.D.—A Parliament, held in Dublin this year, authorized the Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy, for the re-building of the Castle of Tristledermot, to impress waggons and horses from baronies in Dublin and Meath, and to oblige every person holding one ploughland in the barony of Newcastle to provide an able man gratuitously at the work for four days.—“Gilbert’s Viceroy,” p. 421.

1499 A.D.—On the 26th of August, a Parliament was held at Tristledermot, when a law was made for the punishment of frauds and cheats committed by customers and other toll-gatherers ; also, another law was enacted for setting an excise on all wares, as well imported as exported, except wine and oil, with some caution notwithstanding, expressed in the same statute. Moreover, at the same time two other laws were made which contained some punishments against certain of the nobles. The first was against those who, when they rode, used not saddles, after the English fashion ; the later against those who, in Parliament, wore not Parliament robes. A subsidy was



INTERIOR VIEW OF THE LADY CHAPEL ATTACHED TO THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY, CASTLEDERMOT.



likewise granted to the King, as well by the clergy as the laity. —(Ware.) In a marginal note to Ordnance Survey letter, G. Petrie remarks:—"I saw an old house in the town which was popularly called the Parliament House. From the style of architecture I would suppose it as old as 1499. I believe it has been taken down some years." The writer of a "Tour Through Ireland," published 1780, gives a short description of this town:—"It had formerly," he writes, "four gates; the entrance southward still bears the name of Carlow Gate, and the other to the north, Dublin Gate, though there are not the least remains of either left. . . . The inn where we dined was part of the Parliament House. . . . As to the castle from which it derives its name, there are not even the vestiges to be seen." The inn here mentioned was called the Garter Inn. It stood where the Leinster Arms Hotel now stands, and gave the land connected with it the name of the Garter farm or holding.

1532 A.D.—Gerald, 9th Earl of Kildare, was appointed Deputy. He was summoned to London the year following and committed to the Tower. One of the counts in the Act of Attainder subsequently passed against him was that in 1532, "at the fair of Tristledermot, crying havoc upon the King's subjects which thither was resorted, he caused them, in his own presence, to be spoiled, robbed of their goods, and divers of them murdered." Another charge against him was that, "a friend of Piers Butler, Earl of Ossory, named Sir Roland FitzGerald, Baron of Burntchurch, was proceeding, this same year, to Dublin to attend a Parliament, and had reached Castledermot, when he and his companion were made prisoners of by the Earl of Kildare's foster-brother, Cahir MacEncrosse MacMorrogh, and handed over to the care of the Constable of the Castle, while he rode off to consult the Earl at Kilkea. On his return, the Baron was conveyed further into the heart of the county of Kildare, to a castle called Beardy's Castle (Bert), and yrons brought of the Earl's owne manor of Kylkaa, to make fast the Baron." Ultimately, after a long imprisonment, the Baron was released by order of the Lord Justice, with the loss of his horse, money, and apparel.—"State Papers, (Hen. VIII. 2, 157)."

1534 A.D.—During the Rebellion of Silken Thomas, Earl of Kildare, Castledermot was garrisoned by his Irish allies, but was taken in the King's name by Piers, Earl of Ossory. This Piers was, in 1540, appointed Constable of the Castle of Tristledermot. Eight years later Edward O'Loyne was Constable. In Morrin's Calendar (Pat. Rolls) we find, on the 19th February, 1548, pardon of Edward O'Loyne, Constable of the Castle of

- Tistledermot, as also of Thomas O'Loyne, Demetrius Oge O'Neyll of Ravelle (Rathvilly<sup>2</sup>), Redmond M'Cabe, Caher Duffe, Connor O'Loyne, and Thomas Duff McHenry, all of Tistledermot. On the same occasion were pardoned Peter Wall, of Donmahennoke (Dunmanogue), Edmond Wall of same place, and Darel O'Dempsey, of Frompeliston (Plumplestown), horseman. The nature of their offence is not recorded.

1578 A.D.—On the 30th of September, Sir William Drury, Lord Justice, and Sir Edward Fyton, Treasurer, being at Castledermot, Hugh MacShawn O'Byrne and Teig MacGilla Phadrigh O'Conor, came in to make their submission and deliver hostages for their future good conduct.—(Cal. Carew MSS.). In a journal of Sir William Russell, Lord Deputy, the following entry is found:—1595, 11th April, “Proceeded from Dublin to Castledermot; 12th, stayed for companies, Gerald MacShaan Begg's head sent in by Doulin McBrian.”—(Cal. St. Papers).

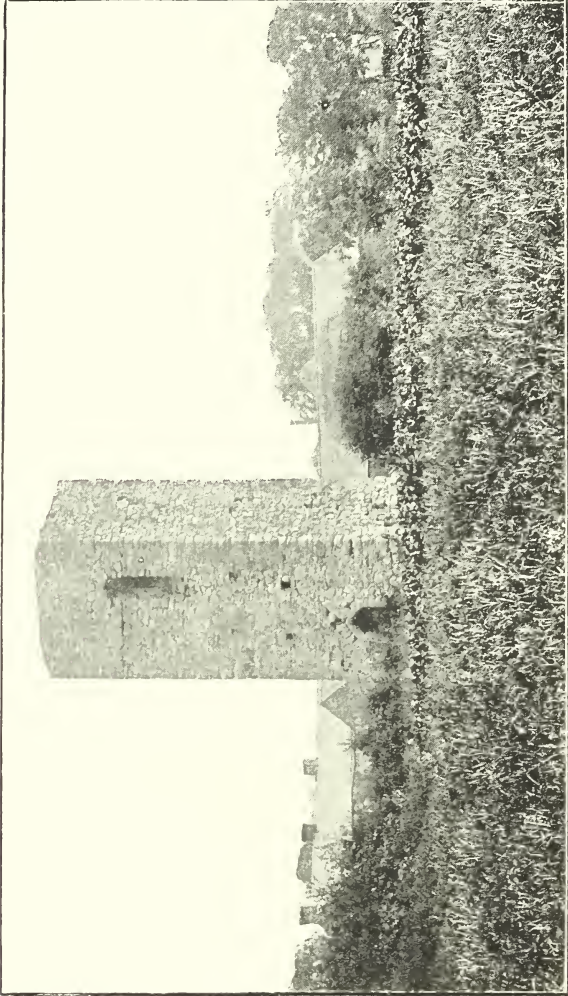
On the breaking out of hostilities in 1641, George, Earl of Kildare, as Governor of the county, appointed Pierce FitzGerald of Ballyshannon to command the garrison of Castledermot, and, for that purpose, furnished him out of the royal stores with arms and ammunition for 100 men. Being provided by the Earl with a warrant to the Rev. John Walsh to deliver to him the castle, he, in December, seized all Mr. Walsh's property, within and without the castle, and, carrying it off as booty, joined the army of the Confederation at Kilkenny, and was there appointed Colonel of a regiment. For this he was proclaimed a traitor, and a price of £400 put upon his head.—“Gilbert.”

On the 1st of April, 1650, Colonel Hewson marched to Castledermot, where the enemy had burnt a great part of the castle the day before, and betook themselves to a strong tower which they had not burnt. Hewson caused great stores of straw and other combustible materials to be put to the door and set on fire, which forced them within presently to cry out for mercy; in which place were taken Captain Scurlock, a bloody Tory, three friars, and divers others.—*Id.*

1690 A.D.—After the Battle of the Boyne King William and his army, on their way to Limerick, reached Castledermot on the 14th of August. Here he received the news of the defeat of his fleet by the French off Beachy Head. Rev. John Story, Army Chaplain, thus writes:—“From Timmolin we marched to Castledermot. . . . Here the king received some packets from England, giving him a further account of his fleet and sea affairs, which was easily understood not to be very grateful, and,







THE BELFRY OF THE CROUCHED FRIARY AT CASTLEDERMOT.

(From a Photograph taken by Miss Johnson, of Frumplestown House.)

as is supposed, was the occasion of our slow marches. The army rested a day at Castledermot, and the next day marched beyond Carlow."

A charter school was founded at Castledermot in 1734, being the first erected in Ireland.

#### THE CROUCHED FRIARY.

In the reign of King John a Priory of Crouched Friars, or Trinitarians, under the invocation of St. John the Baptist, was founded here by Walter de Riddlesford, lord of the town.--(Ware). It was situated without the town walls and adjoining the road which leads to Dublin. The Order of Trinitarians, for the redemption of Christian captives out of the hands of the infidels, was instituted by St. John de Matha and St. Felix de Valois, in 1197. They were called Cruciferi, anglicised Crouched or Crutched Friars, from the cross of blue and red which they wore on the breast of their white habit. To the present day, the place where their convent stood in London is called Crutched Friars. Besides the work of redeeming captives, they also devoted themselves to the relief of the poor and sick, and consequently the Houses of this Order were also for the most part hospitals. They made three portions of all their goods: one went to the redemption of captives, a second was devoted to the relief of the poor, and the remaining third was applied for their own subsistence.

1531 A.D.—In this year the prior paid two marks proxies to the Archbishop of Dublin.—“Harris’s Coll.”

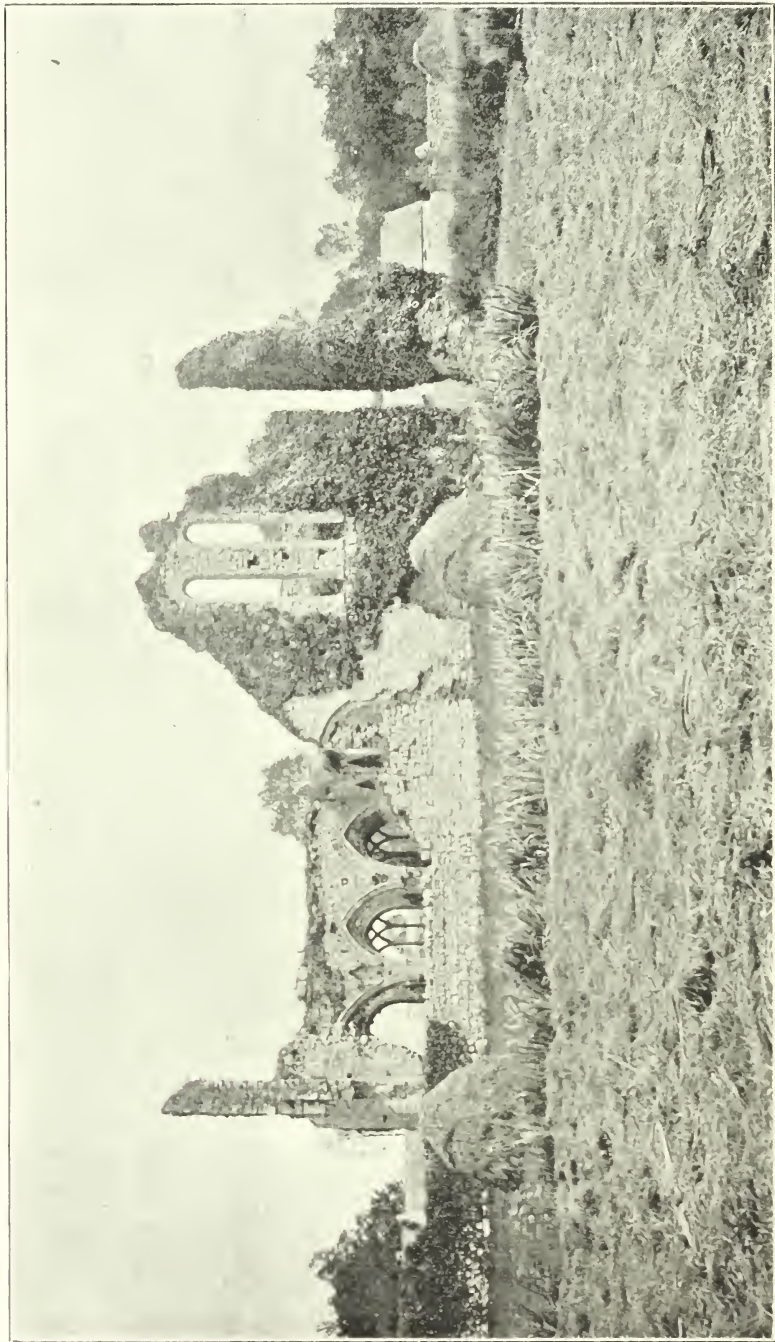
In April, 1541, the Hospital of St. John of Tristledermot, or Castledermot, and the Friars Minors of same; the Priory of Grayne, and the Priory of Themolynbegg surrendered before Walsh, Wynne, and Cavendysh.—“Cal. St. Papers.” The Rectory of Fremock, in this county, was appropriated to the Prior of this monastery, and was, besides reprises, of the value of £10.—“Inquis. 5th Edward VI.” An inquisition taken Tuesday next after the feast of St. Nicholas Bp. 34th Hen. VIII., finds that the Prior was seized of a church, steeple, dormitory, hall, chamber, and a store, a cemetery and garden within the precincts, annual value, 4s.; 2 messuages, 10 cottages, 60 acres of arable, 4 of meadow, and 10 of pasture, in Castledermot; annual value, £2 15s.; an ancient castle and 20 acres arable in Grangefour, *alias* Grangecoole, ann. val. £1; 8 acres great measure in Haystown, ann. val. 10s.; 16 acres same measure in Tomenstown and Colenstown, ann. val. £1; 3 acres in Kilkaa, ann. val. 4s.; an annual rent of £2 Irish money, out

of a watermill, 4 acres great measure in Bray, ann. val. 3s. 4d. ; the townland of Prioriston in Lexe and the tythes of Mounternocke in Conana and Temoge.

June 18th—18th Elizabeth, a grant was made to Richd. Keating, Gent., of this hospital, with its lands and possessions (enumerated) in Castledermot, Grangeford, Coltenstown, Tomenstown, Coolrake, Huestown, and Kilkea, and also in Bray. —“ Chief Remembrancer.” Aug. 20th, 20th Elizabeth. The rectories of Montermoho and Kylmakrian, in county Galway, parcel of the possessions of this monastery, were granted to the burgesses and commonalty of Athenry.

May 6th—23rd Elizabeth. This Priory and its appurtenances were granted to Henry Harrington.—“ Aud. Genl.” He died 3rd May, 1612, seized of this Hospital and its possessions. —“ Lib. Inquis. post mort.” The only portion of this Monastery now remaining is a square tower, of which Lord W. Fitzgerald supplies the following particulars :—It stands in a field called the Pigeon House Park, to the north of the town. It is 39 feet high in its present state ; the sides measure about 15 feet each side and are  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick. Of the rest of the buildings there is no trace above ground, though extensive foundations are met with under the surface. Some few perches to the north-west of the tower, an underground chamber was accidentally discovered a few years ago by a horse, when ploughing, putting his foot through the vaulted roof ; it has not as yet been explored. This tower is locally known as the Pigeon House, from having at some time long since been adapted and used for that purpose. It was, probably, when it was devoted to that use that the narrow slit windows were built up, and are now hardly observable on the outside, though deeply splayed within. Except in the top storey, they are placed in the south, east, and west walls of the different floors ; the top storey has a single window slit in each of the east and west walls. High up in the tower there is an arched floor having, besides a break, two oblong holes as if for bell-ropes. Below this floor traces are observable of joist-holes for two wooden floors, in addition to the ground floor. In the north wall are two arched doorways, one on the ground level, and the other on the level of the stone floor. If any portion of the monastic building was attached to this tower, it must have been on the north side, but even here there are no traces of roof-bonding.





THE WEST END OF THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY AT CASTLEDERMOT.

(From a Photograph taken by Miss Johnson, of Prumplestown House.)

## THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY.

A monastery for Conventual Franciscans was founded here in the year 1302 by Thomas, Lord Offaly, to which, we are told, the family of De La Hoyde were great benefactors.—“*Varior. apud Archdall.*” An entry in Sweetman’s “*Cal. of Documents, Ireland,*” would indicate a much earlier date for this monastery. It is as follows:—“No. 2878. Mandate to John FitzGeoffry, Justiciary of Ireland, to cause the Franciscan Friars of Tristledermot to have 15 marks of the King’s gift, 28th May, 1247.” As, however, all the other authorities give the later date, we must conclude that there is an error either of date or name of place in this entry.

1316 A.D.—In the second week of Lent the Scots under Bruce plundered this convent.—“*Pembridge.*”

1328 A.D.—In Easter week Thomas, 2nd Earl of Kildare, died. He was Lord Justice of Ireland, and a liberal benefactor to the Gray Friars. He built the Chapel of St. Mary in this convent, in which he was interred, together with his wife Joan, daughter of Richard de Burgh, Earl of Ulster.—“*Wadding.*”

1398 A.D.—On the 18th February, in the church of this monastery, Thomas, Earl of Nottingham and Marshal of England, being present, Lysah Ferison O’Conor, of the nation of Hyrth, and O’Toole did homage, and, on bended knees, with lifted hands, took an oath, in Irish, of allegiance to the King.—“*Notarial Instrument, Carew mss.*”

In April, 1541, the Friars Minors of this House surrendered (as the phrase goes) on the same occasion as did the Friars of the Hospital of St. John.

Considerable remains of this monastery still exist, though greatly reduced and mutilated, even within the memory of persons still living. Lewis, “*Top Dict.,*” writing in 1837, thus describes them:—“The extensive and beautiful remains of the Franciscan Convent consist, at present, chiefly of the Abbey Church and the Chapel of St. Mary, the former a long building lighted at the west end by two lofty lancet-shaped windows, and at the east end by a window which, though now greatly mutilated, appears to have been of elegant design. On the south side, and attached to the church, is a low, square tower, with a circular staircase turret; and on the north side, opening into the church by a lofty arch, was the Chapel of the Blessed Virgin, distinguished for the elegance and richness of its





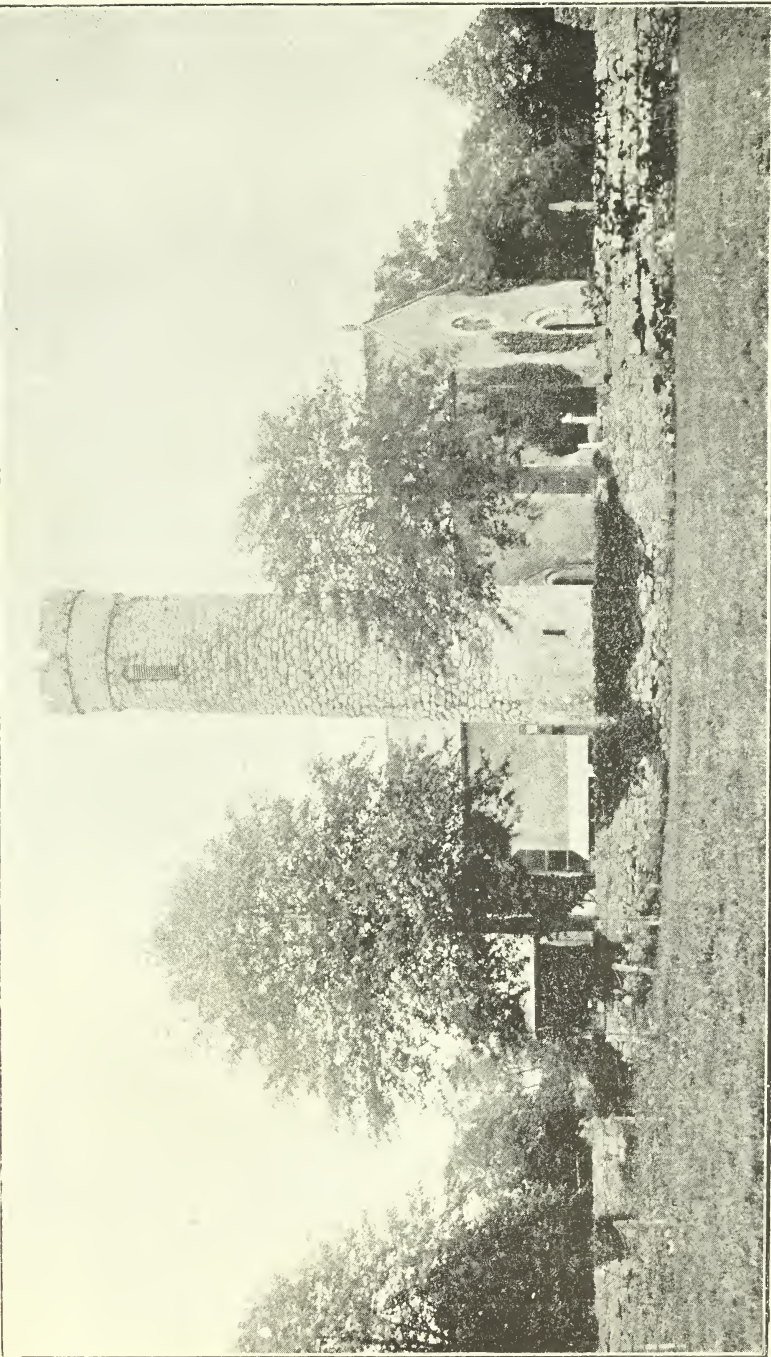
trayed the skeleton of a man, the left foot caught in the mouth of a dragon. On the other side of the shaft is a female skeleton in grave-clothes, tied at the head and feet ; the face is exposed, and also the ribs, through which a great worm is represented crawling. On the edge of the stone, around these gruesome figures, is an incised inscription, little of which is legible. With difficulty the names *James Tallon* and *Joan Skelton* can be deciphered. This inscription looks as if it was added at a later date. Ledwich, in the letterpress to Grose, mentions a gravestone, no longer here, with the following inscription :—

“ Here lies Jean Hay, who, night and day,  
Was honest, good, and just ;  
Her hope and love were from above,  
In which place was her trust.  
Her spirit left her terrene part,  
With joy to God where was her heart,  
On the 4th day of January, 1706-7.”

Attached to this Friary was another chapel, dedicated to St. James, the patron of the district, of which one gable and portion of a sidewall remain. From under the site of the altar flowed St. James's Well, which a late parish priest diverted to the other side of the gable. This chapel was fitted up and used as a place of worship by the Catholics until—as the writer of the Ordnance Survey Letter relates, who no doubt had it from some old inhabitant—“ it was maliciously burnt in 1799 by John Lennon, of Ballitore ; Bill Lennon, of Ballacore ; Thomas Connally, of Castledermot, the charter schoolmaster's son ; and Billy King, the Devonshire militiaman. The plot was hatched in Peter Graham's, the shoemaker's house, in Castledermot, and the fire was carried in a kettle out of Wat Coleman's house in Castledermot.”

The Protestant church and the burial-ground surrounding it occupy the site of the original hermitage of St. Diarmaid, and the monastery which sprung up around it. An ancient round tower here has been already described in the *Journal of our Society*, p. 77 ; it is 66½ feet high ; its doorway, which, contrary to the usual custom, is only slightly above the ground level, is square-headed, the jambs inclining towards each other at top ; portion of these have been hacked away, probably for the admission of the bell placed in it in the last century. The swathing of ivy in which it had been enveloped for at least a century and a-half has been lately removed, with advantage

to the preservation of the building, and also affording an opportunity for the examination of its structural details. A considerable portion of the old church was in existence up to a comparatively recent date. An engraving, taken from a sketch made by Lieut. Grose in 1791 (Grose's Antiquities), shows the south wall and the west-end standing. Petrie writes regarding it:—"The Old Abbey Church was in existence when I visited the town (early in the century), partly in ruins and partly repaired for a parish church. It was of the same architecture and age as the round tower." At present, except such portions as are incorporated in the existing church, nothing remains but the beautiful Romanesque western doorway with its chevron decoration. Two high Celtic crosses stand in the burial ground. Both are richly sculptured, the subjects being, as usual, Scriptural and religious, including, besides the central figure of The Crucified, David playing the harp, the Sacrifice of Isaac, Adam and Eve in the Garden, the meeting between St. Anthony and St. Paul the first hermit (this is also on the Moone cross), the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, the Twelve Apostles, St. Christopher, &c. The cross to the south formerly lay in three parts, amongst the graves; it was restored by the Marquis of Kildare, afterwards fourth Duke of Leinster. The carving on the base was never finished, one side being incomplete and the other untouched. Several rough-hewn granite stones lie about, in shape oblong, but wider at the top than at the base; some are quite plain; others have a cross incised or in relief, running the whole length and breadth, like the one already referred to and popularly supposed to mark the grave of King Cormac. These may have served as lids or coverings of stone coffins. The tradition of the locality is that Abbot Cairpre, who died in 919, after a long life, and probably also a long tenure of office, built the round tower and the church, and erected the crosses. A rude circular granite font, formerly belonging to this church, was rescued from being used as a drinking-trough for cattle on the adjoining farm, and now lies within the ruins of the Franciscan Abbey. It is not pierced. A granite stone,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height above ground, stands in the graveyard; it has a Celtic cross engraved on it, running its whole length, the peculiarity of which in this case is, that what would have been the circle of the cross is a round hole 5 inches in diameter, pierced right through. This sculptured stone does not appear to be of very ancient date; it certainly is not one of those pierced stones to be found in some parts of the country, as,



THE ROUND TOWER AND CHURCH AT CASTLEDERMOT.

(From a Photograph taken by Miss Johnson, of Prumplestown House.)



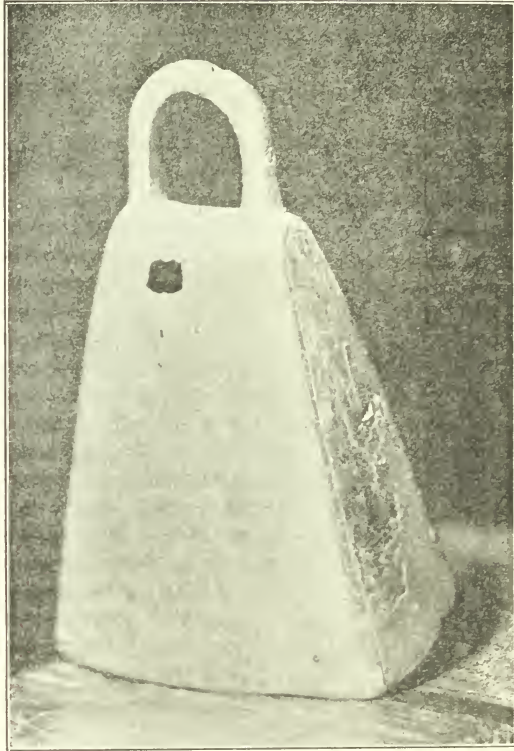
for example, *The Cloch-a-Phoill* at Ahade, county Carlow, which are supposed to belong to Pagan times, and to have been used for superstitious purposes. The piercing through of this headstone—for such it appears to be—was probably an artistic freak of the sculptor. Amongst the memorials of the dead here are the following:—(1) Portions of a cross erected to the memory of John FitzGerald of Narraghbegg, who died 11th April, 1620, by his wife Ellen Tallan; (2) a large headstone to mark the grave of Robert Jennings, deceased 17th January, 1679; and (3) a slab bearing the name of Rev. Charles Hardcastle, a Yorkshire man, for several years vicar of this parish, who died 10th May, 1701.



“THE SWEARING STONE,” CASTLEDERMOT CHURCHYARD.

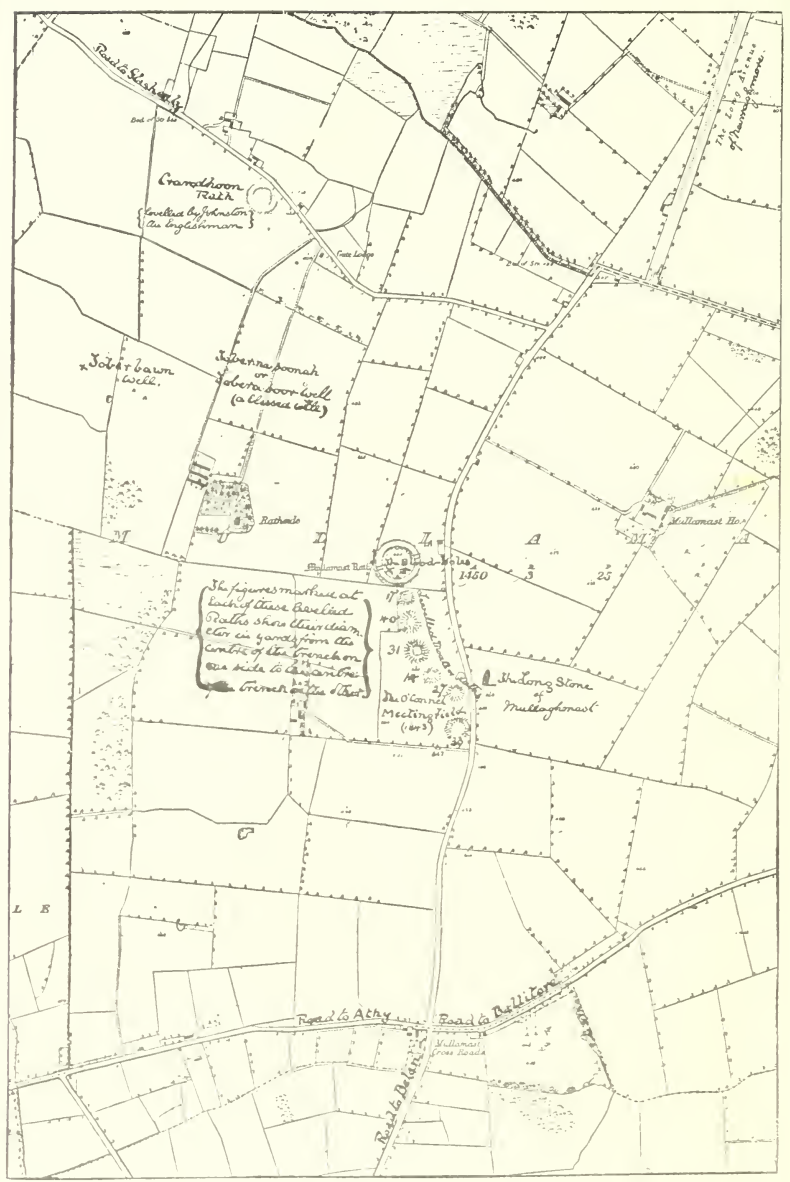
In 1863 some labourers dug up in a field near the town a very interesting relic of the past—namely, an old Irish ecclesiastical bell of bronze. It is of the usual oblong shape, with some attempt at ornamentation in the casting; it is  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches high, and measures at the base  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 3 inches. The finders sold it to a pedlar, who re-sold it to a Mr. Glennon in Dublin; from him it was purchased by Mr. Robert Day of Cork, and, finally and happily, it came in 1889, into the possession of the Leinster family, and is preserved at Kilkea Castle.

In preparing this paper a free use has been made of valuable notes kindly placed at the writer's service by Lord Walter FitzGerald.



ANCIENT BRONZE ECCLESIASTICAL BELL OF CASTLEDERMOT.  
(The ornamentation on the angle here shown is very uncommon.)  
Height,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches.





THE RATH OF MULLAGHMAST AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD.



*MULLAGHMAST: ITS HISTORY AND  
TRADITIONS.\**

By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

**T**HE high ground lying to the west of the town of Ballitore,† in the south of the county Kildare, is called Mullaghmast.

In Irish mss. and histories it is variously written Maistean, Rath Maistin, and Mullach Maistean, which last has been contracted to its present form of Mullaghmast; the name means "Maistin's hill." Of this Maisten an ancient Irish ms. called "the Dinneanchas" says:—"Maistin was the born daughter of Aengus 'Mac Umor,' and embroideress to Aengus MacInog; she was the first person that formed the figure of a cross in Erin, in the breast border of Aengus's tunic." Aengus MacUmor was the builder of the great pre-Christian stone fort, called after him Dun Aengus, a large portion of which still remains standing on the high cliffs of Inishmore, the largest of the Islands of Aran, which lie off the mouth of Galway Bay. The other Aengus, mentioned above, was also a famous chieftain, whose name is associated with Brugh-na-Boinne, the burial place of the Pagan kings, now known as "Newgrange," near Slane, in the Co. Meath.‡

On the summit of Mullaghmast (560 feet above the sea level), is a large circular rath, called Rathmore by some authorities, and Rathmaisten by others, so named probably to distinguish it from another rath which lies half a mile from it to the north, called "Ratherandhun," (said to mean the Rath of the Black Sow), of which only a small portion is left, the remainder having been levelled in recent years. Both these raths are marked on the six-inch Ordnance Survey Map (No. 36 of the Co. Kildare), but the names are not given.

By whom the Mullaghmast Rath was erected is unknown, but it, along with that of Mullachreelan,§ and the fort known

\* Read at the Society's Meeting on the 18th January, 1893.

† *i. e.* Bel-atha-a'-tuair = the ford mouth of the bleach-green (Joyce).

‡ *Íde* O'Curry's "Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish," vol. iii. p. 122.

§ *i. e.* Reelan's hill.

as the Moat of Ardsceall,\* were situated in the ancient territory of the O'Tooles, called Omurethy, which comprised the southern portion of the present Co. Kildare.

From a very early date, Mullaghmast must have been a place of great importance, as it is frequently mentioned as having been burnt or captured, along with other Leinster strongholds, such as Knockawlin, near old Kilcullen, Naas, and others.

Thus, as early as the year A.D. 82, we find that Toole, nicknamed the Prosperous, King of Ireland, waged war on his son-in-law, Eochy, King of Leinster, for having disgraced him by marrying his second daughter during the life of her sister whom he had previously married; in this war Toole destroyed the palaces and fortresses of Naas, Knockawlin, Mullachreelan, Mullaghmast, and others.†

In the reign of Felimy the Lawgiver, King of Ireland, from the year 111 to 119, the men of Munster had invaded the Leinster territory up as far as "Maistean,"‡ and kept possession of it. Its king, Cuchorb, not being powerful enough to evict them, appealed to, and obtained help from the King of Ulster. The combined forces then proceeded to attack the Munster men, when, according to the Book of Lecan, it was at Athtruisdin the first engagement took place, and the Munstermen were routed thence to the river Bearbha§ (or Barrow) where at Ath-I, a second battle was fought in which Eo or Ae, son of Dergabhail, the fosterer of Eochaid Fothart, was slain, and from him the ford was called Ath-I, *i.e.* the ford of Eo." Such was the origin of the present name of the town of Athy; the Athtruisdin mentioned above—to quote the Annals of Clonmacnois—was a "little foorde near the hill of Mullamaisden" on the river Greese, anciently called "Glash Chriche," or the "Boundary River."

In the second century, Conn of the hundred battles (or "the fighter of a hundred," as others translate his nickname) reigned as King of Ireland from A.D. 123 to 157. Eochy, the son of Eric, King of Leinster, refusing to pay the Borumha, or Cow-tribute, due from his province, Conn proceeded to enforce it, and marched with a powerful army against him, but he was heavily defeated in a great battle at "Maistean," and fled, while Eochy led his victorious forces to the Royal Palace of Tara, where he remained for four years."||

\* *i. e.* The height of the shouts.

† *Vide* O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," vol. ii. p. 196.

‡ *Vide* "Keating's "History of Ireland."

§ Bearbha = bir, water, and ba, dumb; *i. e.* the silent flowing river.

|| *Vide* O'Flaherty's "Ogygia," vol. ii. p. 210.

In the following century (A.D. 241), when Cormac MacArt was King of Ireland, he, to revenge the massacre of a large number of maidens by Doolan, son of Enna Niadh, King of Leinster, burnt the palace of "Maisden," along with several other strongholds.\*

In the eighth century two great Leinster tribes, the Ui Dunlaing, and the Ui Ceinsellaigh, were at war with each other. In the year 727, a pitched battle was fought at Mullaghmast, which resulted in the defeat of the latter.†

The "Annals of the Four Masters," under the year 936, record the rising of the Leinstermen against the power of the Danes, "so that they spoiled and plundered all that was under the dominion of the foreigners from Ath-Cliath to Ath-Truisten." Ath Cliath means the "ford of the hurdles," and is one of the old names of Dublin; while Ath Truisten, as before mentioned, was the name of a ford over the river Greese just below Mullaghmast.

We now come to an interesting incident which occurred in the immediate vicinity of Mullaghmast, just after the final defeat of the Danes by Brian Boru at the battle of Clontarf, which was fought on Good Friday in the year 1014. When the Irish forces were dispersing to their homes after their victory, two great Munster tribes, the men of Desmond, and the men of Thomond, travelled together as far as "Magh Maisten," that is the plain lying between Mullaghmast and Athy, where they encamped. There had been for a long time a great rivalry between these two tribes, as to which should supply the king for the province of Munster, and latterly he had been selected from the Thomond tribe, who were then strong enough to uphold him; but now they had become greatly weakened through the numbers they lost at the recent battle, besides having many wounded with them; and this opportunity the men of Desmond took to renew the quarrel in order to force them to acknowledge a Desmond chief as king. The Thomond men indignantly refused to do so; both sides prepared to fight it out there and then. The Thomond chief Donough, son of Brian Boru, thereupon gave orders that their wounded comrades should be conveyed to "Rath Maisten" for safety, and a guard left with them; but when they heard that they were to be out of the fight they arose, stuffed their wounds with moss, and seizing their arms insisted on doing their share in the

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\* *Vide* Father Shearman's "Loca Patriciana," p. 114.

† *Vide* O'Donovan's translation of three fragments of Annals, published by the Irish Archaeological and Celtic Society in 1860.

coming struggle. On seeing the bravery and determination of their opponents, the men of Desmond thought better of it, and continued their march to Munster, leaving the Thomond tribe masters of the field. When the excitement had subsided, a faintness again seized the wounded men, and they had to be carried down to the ford of "Ath-I" on the Barrow, where they drank of the water and cleaned their wounds.

From this time to the sixteenth century no particular mention is made of Mullaghmast, though it must have witnessed troubled times. The introduction of stone castles, piles, and fortified houses after the Anglo-Norman invasion in 1170, gradually superseded the raths as places of safety and defence, though they continued to be made use of even in Elizabeth's reign.

During the reign of Queen Mary the territories of Leix and Offaly were brought to a state of submission; the former was, after her, named the Queen's County, with Maryborough as its capital; and the latter became the King's County, and its capital was called Philipstown, after Philip of Spain, the Queen's husband. The best parts of these two counties were gradually planted with those military officers who had taken part in their reduction, such as the Cosbys, Bowens, Hartpoles, Hovendens, Parsons, Molesworths, Armstrongs, etc., who of course had not a quiet time of it. In Queen Elizabeth's reign a diabolical act was perpetrated at Mullaghmast by the English on New Year's Day, 1577, which brought its name into unenviable notoriety. The "Annals of the Four Masters" thus record it:—

"A horrible and abominable act of treachery was committed by the English of Leinster and Meath, upon that part of the people of Offaly and Leix that remained in confederacy with them and under their protection. It was effected thus: they were all summoned to show themselves with the greatest number they could be able to bring with them, at the great Rath of Mullaeh Maistean; and on their arrival at that place they were surrounded on every side by four lines of soldiers and cavalry who proceeded to shoot and slaughter them without mercy, so that not a single individual escaped by flight or force."

In O'Donovan's notes on the above a further description of this massacre is given, which was obtained in the following manner:—The late Laurence Byrne,\* of Fallybeg, near Luggacurren, made a copy in a small quarto parchment book from an old manuscript which he had borrowed in 1792 from the Rev. James O'Neill, r.p. of Maryborough, who, at the sale of the

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\* Born 19th December, 1751, and living still in 1833

books of the Rev. John Whelan, P.P., of Portarlington (who died a very old man in 1775), had found the original loose sheet of manuscript in one of the volumes and preserved it. The contents of the ms. were as follows:—

“ AN ACCOUNT OF THE MURDER AT MULLAMAST.

“ In the year 1705 there was an old gentleman of the name of Cullen in the County of Kildare, who often discoursed with one Dwyer, and one Dowling, actually living at Mullamast when this horrible murder was committed which was about the sixteenth year of Queen Elizabeth’s reign, and the account he gives of it is, that those who were chiefly concerned in this horrid murder were the Deavils, the Grehams, the Cosbys, the Pigotts, the Bowens, the Hartpoles, the Hovendens, and the Dempseys. The four last of them were at that time Roman Catholics, by whom the poor people murdered at Mullamast were chiefly invited there in pretence that the said people should enter into an alliance offensive and defensive with them. But their reception was to put them all to death, except one O’More who was the only person that escaped. Notwithstanding what is said that one O’More only had escaped the massacre, yet the common tradition of the country is that many more had escaped through the means of one Harry Lalor, who, remarking that none of those returned who had entered the fort before him, desired his companions to make off as fast as they could in case they did not see him come back. The said Lalor, as he was entering the Fort, saw the carcasses of his slaughtered companions, then drew his sword, and fought his way back to those who survived, along with whom he made his escape to Dysart, without seeing the Barrow. Those murdered at Mullamast were some of the 7 septs of Leix, and some gentlemen of the Keatings; the 7 sept of Leix are, the O’Mores, O’Kellys, O’Lalors, the Devoy’s (pron. Deevy), Macaboy’s (*i. e.* M<sup>e</sup>Evoy’s), O’Dorans, and the O’Dowlings.”

The O’Dempseys of Clanmalire were the only native Irish clan who took part in the massacre, and as their property had not been forfeited with the rest in Offaly, they were probably on good terms with the Government, and wished to remain so; at this time Sir Henry Sidney was lord deputy of Ireland. In the year 1594 a memorial was drawn up by an officer under the Government, Captain Thomas Lee, for presentation to Queen Elizabeth, representing to her the way the country was being misgoverned and the natives treated. In it he says, alluding to Mullaghmast:—

“ They have drawn unto them, by protection, three or four hundred of those country people, under Colour to do your Majesty service, and brought them to a place of meeting, where your garrison soldiers were appointed to be, who have there most dishonourably put them all to the sword; and this hath been by the consent and practice of the Lord Deputy for the time being. If this be a good course to draw these savage people to the state to do your Majesty service, and not rather to enforce them to stand upon their guard, I humbly leave to your Majesty.”\*

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\* *Vide* “ Dr. Curry’s “ History of the Civil Wars in Ireland ” (Appendix).

This massacre is also referred to by Thady Dowling, Chancellor of Leighlin at the time, in his "Annals," and also by Leland in his "History of Ireland."

Captain Francis Cosby, described as of Kildare, and then of Monasterevin, was in command of the English troops stationed in the Rath; twenty years previously he had been appointed General of the Kern (native light foot-soldiers), retained in the pay of the Government; under him was an officer named John Bowen, one of the Ballyadams (Queen's County) family; he was known as Shawn-a-feeka,\* *i. e.* John of the Pike, by the Irish, on account of his being usually armed with that weapon, it is said. I have been unable to find that any notice was taken by the authorities of the massacre, except that Captain Cosby was in 1592 granted the possessions of the monastery of Stradbally, and his son Alexander married Dorcas, daughter of Sir Henry Sydney, the lord deputy.

Holinshed, who had compiled his "Chronicles of Ireland" before the massacre had taken place, quotes, in that part which describes Ireland, a curiously truthful prophecy in connection with Mullaghmast. He writes:—

"There is also in the Countie of Kildare a goodlie field called Moolleagh-mast, between the Norrough (*i. e.* Narraghmore), and Kilka. Divers blind prophecies run of this place, that there shall be a bloudie field fought there, between the English inhabitants of Ireland and the Irish, and so bloudie forsooth shall it be, that a mill in the vale hard by it shall run four and twentie houres with the streame of bloud that shall poure down from the hill. The Irish doubtless repose a great affiance in this balductum dreame. In the top of this height stand motes or rundels verie formallie fashioned, where the strength of the English armie as they saie shall be encamped.

The Earle of Sussex, being lord lieutenant of Ireland, was accustomed to wish that if anie such prophecie were to be fulfilled, it should happen in his government, to the end he might be general of the field."

This Earl of Sussex was Thomas Radcliffe, who held the office of lord deputy from 1558 to 1564.

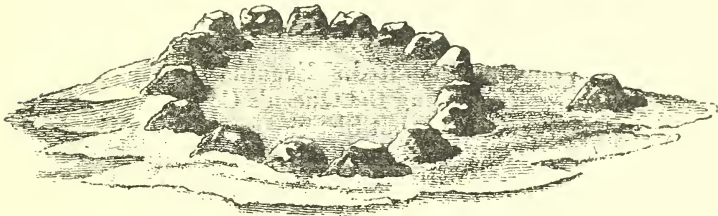
The "Motes or Roundels verie formallie fashioned," on the top of this hill, as mentioned by Holinshed, are not now in existence, but they are referred to in vol. iii. of Richard Gough's edition of "Camden's Britannia" (originally published in 1607), which he illustrated and brought out in London in 1789. One of the illustrations represents sixteen small round mounds in a circle, and a little further off

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\* Some of the peasants call him "Shawn-a-feenoch" which they consider is the Irish for his name John Bone, as they pronounce it.

another by itself; the letterpress in connection with it is as follows :—

“Fig. 12, plate xxxv., is a circle of small tumuli, each about four feet high, on the north of which stands one single and situated on the hill of Mullahmast: near these tumuli stands ‘Gablahn’ or the round pillar stone (Fig. 7) about 7 ft. high. On this hill are a number of circular entrenchments, a large circular Rath, in which may be discovered the foundations of buildings. These Rath, with the tumuli and stone pillar, are probably sepulchral monuments.”



CIRCLE OF MOATS FORMERLY SITUATED NEAR THE LONG STONE OF MULLAGHMAST.

(From Gough's edition of Camden's Britannia.)

The local tradition about the massacre, which I lately heard from the lips of an old man, eighty years of age, named Larry Moore, living near Moone Abbey, on the Belan Road, is to the following effect :—

“During the reign of the She Wolf (*i.e.* Queen Elizabeth) the Irish gentry for miles around received orders to attend a Court in the Rath of Mullaghmast. They assembled in large numbers, and rather late to arrive was an O'More, from the Queen's County side of the Barrow, with his son Shamus and an attendant named O'Kelly. On nearing the Rath the father remarked that it was strange after so many had entered that none came out again, and as he was an old man, if danger was ahead, it would be better for him to lose his life than his son, who was only a boy, and so he would dismount and enter the Rath while Shamus and O'Kelly remained where they were. The son tried to dissuade him from going, and let him go instead; but go the old man would, and off he started, having given his son instructions that if he reappeared at the entrance of the Rath with his hat off, they were to understand that there was danger, and to gallop off immediately, or if he did not appear within seven minutes they were to ride off, and warn anyone they might meet on the way to return home. Old O'More in a very short time reappeared at the entrance fighting

his way out through the soldiery. Shamus and O'Kelly rode to his assistance, helped him to mount, and the three, putting spurs to their horses, galloped away, and never drew rein till they had reached the Barrow opposite to Rheban Castle. On their approach the waters parted in front of them, and they rode dry-shod to the opposite bank, on reaching which the river flowed on as before. From Rheban they rode to the woods of Ballykileavan; and thinking themselves safe from pursuit, they drew rein, and dismounted to breathe their horses. After some time they heard the faint baying of hounds in the direction they had come from, and as it got louder and nearer, O'More gave orders to mount, as he said bloodhounds must be on their track, and off they again started. Eventually they separated; O'More and O'Kelly crossing the Queen's County hills got safe into the county Waterford; but Shamus remained in the Ballyadams district, hiding in the house of a farmer named O'Lalor. In a day or two news reached them that the English had issued a proclamation from Mullaghmast ordering that all boys of a certain age belonging to the O'More sept should be put to death. Consequently Shamus got the farmer's permission to assume his name on condition he worked for him without wages. But one day, while Shamus was ploughing with a team of oxen, a knight rode into the field, whom O'Lalor recognized as Shawn-a-feeka; he dismounted, and, going up to the farmer, asked whose the boy was, and O'Lalor, in terror of being found out in a lie, acknowledged it was Shamus O'More. 'Very good,' said Shawn-a-feeka, 'as I cannot catch the old fox, I'll content myself with the cub'; and walking up to Shamus he told him he would have to return with him to Mullaghmast. Before mounting he showed Shamus a 'bowarra' he held in his hand, and asked him if he knew what it was. Shamus replied that he had never before seen the like of it, and so was told to hold it while Shawn-a-feeka remounted. As soon as he had his foot in the stirrup, with his back turned, Shamus, taking aim, pulled the trigger, and shot him dead between the joints of the armour at the back of the neck; he then mounted the horse and galloped off." Shawn-a-feeka's body was taken to Ballyadams Castle, waked, and then buried in the Ballyadams churchyard;\* where a mutilated altar tomb is pointed out as marking his grave, though in reality it is a Bowen monument of a later date, viz. 1631. It is said that as O'More and his son galloped away from the Rath, the impression of their

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\* Formerly called "Kilmokidie."



horses' hoofs were left on the stones they struck; one of these stones, clearly marked with the shape of the shoe and its nails, is built into the wall over the door of a small slated herd's house that stands near the gate at the entrance into the Rath field from the public road, but it is now hid under a coat of dashing.

As the troops in the Rath were commanded by Captain Francis Cosby at the time of the massacre he was cursed by the widows of the murdered chiefs, and it was said that in consequence for seven generations after the head of the family in Ireland never lived to see his eldest son come of age.

The range of hills on the west side of the Barrow in the Queen's County is called Slieve Margy (pronounced Marragah), which is supposed to mean "The Mountain of Sorrow," and is said to have been so called, because on New Year's night, 1577, there was hardly a house on it in which the death keen was not raised; but the true derivation is that it was called after Marragha, the wife of Etar of Ben Edar (as the hill of Howth was anciently called) who died of grief on this range.

To this day, inside the Rath, a deep hollow is shown which goes by the name of "the Blood Hole," and here it was, the peasants say, the chiefs were executed one after the other to the number of one short of four hundred.

On the 15th of April, 1642, during the Rebellion of 1641 to 1652, the Confederate Catholics, under Lord Mountgarrett and the famous Rory O'More, passed at the foot of the hill of Mullaghmast from Maganey\* previous to fighting the battle of Kilrush,† which lies some four miles away to the north. They were defeated by the Government forces under James, the twelfth Earl of Ormonde. In this battle there was numbered among the dead Gerald MacWilliam FitzGerald, of Castleroe, near Maganey, the ruins of whose castle still stand. He was a Confederate Catholic.

The next event of any importance that took place at the Rath was Daniel O'Connell's monster Repeal meeting, held on Sunday, October the 1st, 1843. A full account of that day's proceedings is to be found in *The Freeman's Journal* for the 2nd October, or in the *Nation* newspaper for the 7th of the month, wherein was first published R. D. Williams' ballad called "The Rath of Mullaghmast."

Before closing this Paper mention should be made of a few antiquarian objects of interest situated near this Rath. The

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\* *i. e.* Magh Finé—the plain of the tribe.

† *i. e.* the church of the wood.

remains of the Rath called "Racrandhun" lie on the roadside in the Glassealy direction, half a mile away to the north. In the low ground between this Rath and that of Mullaghmast is a well called "Tubberbawn," or the clear well; another well, half covered over with a flag, is situated on the northern slope of Mullaghmast hill, called "Tubbernasoona." It is a blessed well. A pattern was formerly held at it, and even now it is resorted to for the cure of sore eyes. Both



THE LONG STONE OF MULLAGHMAST.

these wells are in a neglected state, and much trodden in by cattle. On the south side of the Mullaghmast Rath can still be traced in the next field several small circular entrenchments now levelled by the plough; they are said to be seven in number.\* A man named Leahy, in 1889,

\* Six of them I could clearly trace in the field called the "Meeting Field"; they are all circular, and vary a bit in size. They were levelled before Daniel O'Connell's Monster Meeting by a Scotch farmer named Christie.

while ploughing over one of them, turned up a flagstone, and on examining the spot he found a small kistvaen or flagged chamber full of small broken bones as white as snow. Its dimensions were  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in length, 2 feet in depth, and 18 inches in width. About a quarter of a mile distant from the Rath to the south, near the ditch by the roadside (and on the opposite side of the road to the Rath), is a dallaun or pillar-stone known as "the Long Stone of Mullaghmast." It is the only piece of granite in the neighbourhood; it is 7 feet in height and nearly the same in girth; it is supposed to mark the grave of a Munster king.\*

Not one of the above-mentioned objects is named or even marked on the six-inch Ordnance Survey Map.

There is a legend in connection with the place which, as this class of "Enchanted Story" is yearly getting more difficult to hear from the peasantry, is worth recording. It is said that under the Mullaghmast Rath there is a large cave whose entrance is hidden and unknown; in it are sleeping "Gerod Iarla" and his knights beside their chargers. Once in seven years, for a short while, the enchanted sleep is broken, and they are allowed to issue out; the course they take is always the same: they ride from Mullaghmast to the Curragh, which they gallop round, and then make for Kilkea Castle, where "Gerod Iarla" revisits the haunted room in which he formerly practised the "Black Art"; after which they return and re-enter the Rath Cave; when seen "Gerod Iarla" may be easily distinguished from the rest, as he is mounted on a snow-white charger shod with silver. Years ago a farmer named Nolan, from the Ballitore side, was returning late one wild evening homewards from a fair in Athy, where he had got a good price for some cattle; his road lay past the Rath of Mullaghmast, which he was astonished to see was lit up on one side; being curious to find out the cause of it, he dismounted, and tying his horse and car to a gate, he went on foot towards the rath. When within a few perch of the light he found it was issuing out of a large underground chamber which was full of armed men and saddled horses; he was terrified at the sight, but curiosity overcoming his fear, he saw they were all sound asleep, and so he went a bit closer; becoming still bolder, he entered the chamber on tiptoe, and was wonderstruck at the armour on the men and the harness on the horses;

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\* A sketch of it is given in the *Anthologia Hibernica Magazine* for 1794 (*vide* vol. iv. p. 105); and also in Gough's *Camden's Britannia*, published in London in 1789 (*vide* vol. iii. plate xxxv. fig. 7).

he then began cautiously to feel and examine the strange accoutrements of both, and had half drawn the sword belonging to one of the knights from the scabbard, when the owner began to awake, and raising his head, said in Irish :—“Is the time come?” Nolan, in terror, said :—“It is not, your honour!” shoved the sword back into the sheath, and saw the head again sink down in sleep as he rushed from the place. It is said that if he had only had presence of mind to answer in the affirmative, the spell would have been broken, and “Gerod Iarla” and his knights would have issued out and freed Ireland from her foes.

“Gerod Iarla” means Earl Gerald, and alludes to Gerald the eleventh Earl of Kildare, who was known as “the Wizard Earl”; he was a half brother of “the Silken Thomas” who was drawn, hanged, and quartered for high treason in 1537.

OUTLINE SKETCH OF CRANNOGS, WITH  
SOME NOTES ON A CRANNOG RECENTLY  
DISCOVERED IN CO. KILDARE.

BY COLONEL P. D. VIGORS.

THE subject I am about to bring under your notice this evening is only *one* of the many that are embraced within the range of archæology. Crannogs, or lake-dwellings, or island homes, form a valuable subject for tracing and describing the early lives of our own and other European races, where so much is still shrouded with obscurity. The word "crannog"\* is an Irish one, but its suitability, as applied to these island homes, is not very clear, nor can one easily trace its connection therewith, save the fact that *wood*—which the first part of the word means—is found largely associated with these structures; but the end of the word "oge," which means "little," I fail to see the meaning of here. The word "crannog"† is, I am informed, also used to distinguish a certain measure of turf in parts of Ireland, and, I think, as a measure for other articles as well. However, we shall confine ourselves this evening to its use as representing the artificial islands, and all connected with them, about which I am going to speak.

Crannogs consist of islands formed artificially with timber, stones, and earth, in lakes, bogs, &c. The timber is found in rough and large logs, as cut from the forest, the branches being used to form a foundation on which a framework of beams, sometimes more or less squared, stones, flags, &c., rested, and on which were the huts of the inhabitants and their fire-places, &c. In places where *stones* were readily procurable, it is easily to be understood that such would enter into the construction of these islands.

One or more—sometimes several—lines of piles formed the outer line of these islands. These posts or piles were braced and connected together in various ways so as to keep the structure from falling asunder; wooden pins and mortices, such

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\* A little tree or house, something small of wood.

† *Reeté* Cronnog.

as you will see in the drawings of the Lackagh crannog, are to be found in frequent use.\*

As to the size of the crannogs, they varied considerably, probably according to the requirements of the builders. Very large ones are found on the continent sufficient for whole villages, while others might only answer for the accommodation of a single family. Their shape was generally circular, the diameters varying from about 60 feet to 120 or 200 in this country, but being much larger elsewhere.

*Use.*—As to their use, it may be well here to say that they enabled their inhabitants to rest in much greater safety than if they had dwelt on the mainland; they were free from the sudden attacks of hostile tribes or other human enemies. *Wild beasts* could not reach them, and, if attacked, they formed fortified forts which gave them a great advantage in this respect over their enemies.†

*Age.*—You may ask in what age they flourished? Well, so far as my limited information goes, I think I can only safely say that this question is as yet not determined satisfactorily; they are, I think, generally attributed to prehistoric and pagan times, and supposed to have been used by many successive generations; that they were in use in Christian times is certain, and, I believe, I may say that as late as the middle of the 17th century (about 1640) they are known to have been in occupation in this country. Mention of them is made in the “Annals of Ireland,” and the late Bishop Reeves found several notices of them in the very beginning of the 17th century in Ulster records.

When I come later on to mention some of the things that have been found in crannogs, you will be able to judge better of the different eras through which they passed. Little, if any, doubt can exist as to their having, in some instances at all events, been occupied for periods of great length. The enormous quantity of bones of animals that have been, in comparatively late years, taken from the sites of crannogs is truly astonishing. At one, in the County Roscommon, near Mr. Toler-Aylward’s place at Strokestown, no less than fifty tons of bones are said to have been sold for manure. But what throws even this mass of bones into the shade is the quantity stated to have been bought by a Mr. Silk, of Loughrea, from crannogs near there, which amounted to no less than 300 tons!

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\* 30,000 piles is the number estimated by one writer as having been used in the formation of a single crannog.

† Mr. Kinahan says that these islands were probably used extensively for illicit distillation perhaps to our own time.

And now, before going into any particulars of our *home* "island dwellings," I propose to touch lightly on those of foreign countries, and of England and Scotland. I believe Switzerland easily takes the first place for Continental crannogs, the edges of some of its lakes, as Neufchâtel and others, abounding with them. Then we find them in Germany and Holland; the latter, being a low, flat country, would appear to be peculiarly suitable for them. They are found along the valley of the River Po, in northern Italy. The valleys of the great leading European rivers, it would appear, were their chief lines of advance westward, for it is supposed by some that they are an eastern importation. I am not aware of there having been at present any discovered in Spain, Belgium, or Russia. France can claim them on her Swiss border.

We now turn to the Scotch crannogs, of which a large number have been examined and described carefully. Thirty were known just thirty years since, and, no doubt, many additional ones have been laid bare since then. We find them in Aberdeenshire, Inverness-shire, Kincardineshire, Sutherland, Kirkcubright, Shetland, Bute, &c., and more recently, I believe, in Ayr, Drumfries, and Lanark. With such a man as Robert Munro living in Scotland, there is little fear but that these comparatively newly discovered and most interesting structures will receive every attention, his works on which—both Scotch and European—have placed him in the foremost rank of investigators.

English crannogs are, I believe, few and far between compared with the Scotch or Irish; they have been discovered on the east coast of England, north of the Thames, and in Yorkshire, and I lately saw a notice of a Paper to be read shortly by Mr. Arthur Bullied (?) on a "Lake Village," in Somersetshire.

We next come to the crannogs of Ireland, which naturally should possess more interest for us than any of other countries; and here I may say that the discovery and examination, &c., of the first known crannog, either in Great Britain or Europe, is due to our distinguished countryman, the late Sir William Wilde. He, in company with another no less distinguish antiquary, the late Mr. George Petrie, I believe, may claim to be the pioneers in this previously undescribed, if not unknown, branch of antiquities, and I may add that the subsequent discovery of the crannogs of Scotland and of Europe may be fairly attributed to their work and writings.

It was in the years 1839-40 that these two great men investigated the first crannog, that of Dunshaughlin or Lagore, in the County Meath. And you probably will be surprised to

- hear that it was not till years afterwards that the great number of the now known crannogs were discovered.

Owing to the accidental circumstance of the summer of 1853 being exceptionally dry, we may, perhaps, attribute the wonderful and very extensive discoveries of these structures in Switzerland.

It was about ten years later that the first German crannogs attracted attention, the Scotch came under notice in 1857, the English about the same time, and those of Italy not till about thirty years since.

Is it not strange that these mines of archæological treasures, though seen, and walked over, and passed, in many cases, by the neighbouring inhabitants, and by others, day after day, should have so long remained unobserved?—they, the remains of man's handiwork, put in motion to form them, and to carry on the daily life of their occupants, I believe I may say more than 2000 years ago, and only now brought to light to help to reveal to us secrets and facts that cannot fail to help the investigations of those who study the life and manners and the migrations of past people.

And now to mention in detail a few more things connected with these island homes of our country—they appear to have resembled those discovered elsewhere, as regards means of communication with the mainland; some appear to have had causeways of wood or stone, or a combination of both, connecting them with *terra firma*; others, again, appear to have had rows of piles driven; and, no doubt, with a superstructure of wattles and such like, to form what we would now call a "wooden pier"; others, again, present no appearance of ever having had either of these means of passing to and fro, communication being kept up by means of canoes only. Zigzag approaches have been found, and it is believed that probably many of these were only built so high that they should never appear above low-water level, and thus make it more difficult for an enemy to reach the crannog. I believe all these forms of approaches have been found wherever any number of these island homes have been fully examined.

What are called "corduroy" roads in Australia (formed of trees laid side by side), and which were in use some few years since in that great country, and probably are so still, to enable carts and wagons to cross swampy places, are also found in connection with crannogs.

With regard to the roads of S or snake-like approaches above referred to, I may remark that at a very large "cashel" in the county Carlow I last year traced the approach from the present



main road to the cashel, a distance of about 150 yards, through a low plot of ground which could have been easily flooded, and the road covered so as to make it next to impossible to be followed at night, and very difficult even by daylight by strangers. The only reason that there appeared to be for this winding instead of straight approach was, as already stated, to increase the difficulty to an enemy's approach.

But it is not in the respect of the approaches alone that our crannogs resemble those of Scotland and Europe. Sir W. Wilde remarked on the "extraordinary similarity that exists in the way they are placed, and in the form and use of the articles found in them, &c.;" and of late years this has, I think, become still more apparent owing to the additional information obtained from the very large number of foreign and home crannogs examined since Wilde wrote (about the year 1861).

It is, I think, a little strange that while the bones of animals and birds have been found in quantities in crannogs, those of human beings have not been discovered, with a very few exceptions—one or two in the county of Roscommon, and two at Dunshaughlin.

Sir W. Wilde also refers to the absence of stone implements, and the scarcity of articles of bronze, but this is no longer true; both stone and bronze articles have been found in plenty in our crannogs.

The distribution of our Irish crannogs, as might be expected, is very unequal in the different counties. The total number now known is over 200, of which the province of Ulster furnishes the largest proportion. In one county about 40 are noted. In seven or eight counties I find no record of any crannogs being as yet discovered, including *this* county, which I hope, after to-night, will join the majority and get out of the bad company of those counties who either have none, or else, and worse still, if they have them, have left them to "waste their sweetness on the desert air." My own county, Carlow, comes within this bad lot, as do also the counties of Dublin, Wicklow, Kilkenny, Wexford, and one or two more. Of course those counties where lakes, surrounded by low land, exist, would appear to be the more likely places to find these dwellings than in mountainous districts, where, probably, raths or cashels were used for shelter and defence, and where crannogs, if overlooked by hills within bow-shot, would have afforded but little shelter from attack. The counties of Fermanagh, Leitrim, Antrim, Monaghan, and Galway have, up to this, afforded us the largest fields for investigation.

*Houses.*—The shape and character of the huts or houses occupied by the dwellers on these islands is a subject still open to further inquiry. Mr. Kinahan thought they took the form of a circular sloping roof all round the inner line of piles, with a common fire-place in the centre of the crannog. Other investigators consider their houses may have been round or rectangular, and the discovery, both in this country and on the Continent, of rectangular and circular *log* huts would appear to justify the theory that at one time, at least, they were in use as dwelling-places. But it by no means precludes the idea that there may not have been more simple and less enduring houses, or whatever else we wish to call them, at an anterior date. Perchance they were gipsy huts. I think we may go amongst some of the primitive inhabitants of the earth, as we find them in the South Sea Islands and elsewhere, and, viewing their houses, consider if our western island dwellers may not have lived in houses of a similar character so far as the altered circumstances of the climate and materials permitted. We can fairly conclude that timber, rough or hewn, formed the framework, and that the roofs were thatched with the sedge, and such like, that grew hard by. Basket, or wicker-work sides and partitions may have existed, made with the green oziars, hazel, and other supple branches. Advancing in the march of time, split timbers may have taken the place of basket-work sides, and the huts may have resembled the “log-huts” of the shepherds and border settlers of Australia, where split slabs of the gum or other tree formed the sides, and sheets of bark, like large flags, the roof, not by any means bad shelter, as I can vouch from personal experience.

Then, the houses of the natives of the South Sea Islands afford another view of this subject. Some forty years since, when I was amongst them, they had been little visited by white men, and they were but little changed in their manners and customs from those of their forefathers. Bows and arrows, spears and clubs, dug-out canoes, from single great trees, were what we found, with stone axes and weapons, in some cases, also, bone-pointed spears and arrows. In some islands we found iron had been introduced by the sandal-wood traders, but in many of them they appeared not to have it. Their houses varied in shape, some were like beehives, others were formed by placing rows of sticks in the ground at 10 or 12 feet apart, and bending the heads of the rows inwards until they met like a Gothic arch. They formed the bases on which branches and palm leaves, &c., were spread to keep out wind and rain. They were often very low, and one was obliged to enter on “all fours,”

or on one's knees. Mats were common, well made, and often had patterns hand-woven into them. In the Island of New Caledonia I came across a very handsome specimen of a newly finished chief's house, of which I am able to lay before you a sketch, together with one or two other houses from neighbouring islands. May not our early lake-dwellings have been of the same character?

When we come to examine the timbers found at Lackagh, a very different formation crops up, and the house to which these great beams belonged—if they are house beams—must have been of far more solid construction, and likely to last many more years (see Plate 1.). That fires, accidental or hostile, often destroyed the houses in these lake-dwellings is highly probable.

Before dismissing the subject of the houses of these islanders, one may easily recall the pile-built houses and villages of New Guinea, the islands of the Malay Archipelago, Burmah, and other Eastern countries, where piles form the framework of the native huts in abundance, cross-bars forming the floor, which is generally covered with strong matting made from split bamboos, &c., and the roof thatch.

The hearths or cooking-places of crannogs are an important item in their history. Generally formed with flags or large stones, they appear to have been often in the centre of the enclosure (probably as a safeguard from fire as well as for convenience of position). Others have been found in what are believed to have been the interior of individual houses. In some of our crannogs a succession of hearths has been found one over the other, probably owing either to the sinking of the island or else to some abnormal rise in the surrounding water. Sometimes two or three feet of earth intervenes between each fire-place.

Mr. Ussher, in describing the "finds" in the kitchen-middens or cooking-places of certain raths he examined in the Co. Waterford, describes them as closely resembling the things found in crannogs.

The depth of superincumbent peat or bog that has been found over some crannogs will probably surprise many of my hearers; in one case 14 feet of turf, and, if my memory serves me right, even this mass has been exceeded by several feet more. It is a pity we cannot estimate the age of the buried structures by the depth of this overlying peat.

A few words may now be said on the boats of the crannog-dwellers. The extensive drainage works carried on about forty-five years since in different parts of Ireland helped greatly to the

discovery of many crannogs and canoes. Some are called boats. They had square ends, but I take it that the larger number were like our present "salmon cots," sharp at both ends. These would pass through the water much more rapidly than square-ended boats, while the latter would probably have been more useful for conveyance to and fro of any animals, or of a number of persons at the same time. The former were generally, if not universally, formed out of a single tree by cutting away the inside. One is described as 40 feet in length. Such work, with stone axes, must have been considerable, but in the South Pacific we see it, I believe, still done at islands where iron has not reached.

Some of the writers on crannogs mention, and lament the destruction of these interesting objects of which we are speaking, "some being used for firewood, others for farm purposes."

Before touching on the Lackagh crannog I shall now run over the list of some of the articles that have been found in these lake-dwellings.

As to the materials of which they are composed, we find gold and silver, copper, brass, and lead.

Glass, amber, jet, and enamel beads.

*In stone*, we have, both abroad and at home, implements, weapons, jade and flint celts, arrow-heads, sling-stones, querns, whetstones for sharpening tools on, and stone hammers, polished stones, &c.

*In iron*, swords, hatchets, and knives, spear-heads, vessels of various forms and uses, chains, &c.

*In wood*, canoes, dishes, paddles, &c.

*In bone and horn*, pins, combs, and piercers.

*In bronze*, spearheads, vessels of many kinds, rings, pins, &c.

Besides the above, earthenware vessels, beads, and articles of leather have come to light, and several cases of the finding of "*Bog-butter*" are on record. But I shall not detain you longer on what I might almost call an endless subject, but will refer you to the writings of our countrymen, Wilde, Petrie, Wake-man, Wood-Martin, Kinahan, Mulvany, Ussher, Buick, and many others, and to the four hundred and odd books and pamphlets that crannogs have given birth to. There you will find ample scope for your fancy to run wild in picturing the life and ways, habits, arts, customs, and succession of occupants of these mysterious dwelling-places. There is yet, I think, a vast field of knowledge, at present unknown to us, concealed within them, and though much has been done, yet I fully believe much remains to *be* done. And here I may add, in

conclusion, that I would venture to disagree with those who would place the birth of our Irish crannogs at a much more recent era than those of the Continent of Europe. I think it was Mr. Wakeman who considered that the inhabitants of one or more crannogs he examined must have had metal hatchets or axes, from the way the stakes, &c., were pointed; but if I may judge from the work of the New Zealanders in former years, and by what I have seen there, and amongst the South Pacific islanders, where I only found stone and shells in use, I think it by no means follows that the stakes Mr. Wakeman referred to were the result of the use of metal tools.

NOTES ON A "CRANNOG" AT LACKAGH-MORE, COUNTY  
KILDARE, 1893.

In consequence of information I received from Mr. Arthur Hade, of Carlow, I was induced to visit the townland of Lackaghmore, in September, 1893, in company with Lord Walter FitzGerald, when we spent from about 11 o'clock, a.m., till near 7 p.m. in examining the site of a crannog.

Mr. Hade reported to me that in making some drains the tenant of this farm, a man named Patrick Malone, since dead, had come across large beams of oak buried some feet under ground, and having the appearance of having been used for some purpose, and that the locality was on the edge of the bog through which the G. S. & W. Railway runs. From Mr. Hade's account I felt convinced that what he described belonged to the dwellings of an island home, and accordingly resolved to investigate the matter.

A drive of three miles west, from the town of Kildare, on the Monasterevan-road, brought us to a gateway opening on to a narrow lane between banks. On following this lane for a few hundred yards from the main road we found ourselves at the small farm-house, orchard, and bawn of ——— Malone, the son of the above-named Patrick, an intelligent, well-mannered young fellow, some five-and-twenty years of age, and also his mother, who received us most civilly and assisted us in every way. A rough cart track leads from Malone's house towards the bog and passes close by, if it does not actually intersect, the crannog, which is only about 100 yards or so from the house. The main line of the G. S. & W. Railway passes about 200 or 300 yards south of the crannog, and the site and beams of timber (if still where we saw them) can be distinguished from the railway.

An irregularly shaped mound rising, perhaps, a few feet only above the general level of the field is all that is to be observed above ground; and here I may mention that a little further south, in the same field, there is another flat mound of rather a circular form which presented to me more the appearance which I considered a crannog would present than the place the beams were found in, and though on our slight examination it failed to reveal any signs of its being a crannog, I am not at all sure that it is not one. I would make the same remark regarding one or two similar mounds in the field to the west of the old cart road and adjoining it, which, I regret, the time at our disposal did not permit of our examining.

The annexed drawings represent the beams of oak remaining when we visited the place last year. We heard that others had been removed—some for firewood, and others for use about the farm.

No. 8 is used as a foot-bridge over a drain near the house; another, not figured, was used to support a loft, I think, in one of the out-houses; a third, I saw used as a gate-post, and so on.

Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, were all on the ground close to where they were found, and they certainly are the longest beams I have ever seen as coming from a crannog.

No. 3 was just 16 feet long, by 18 inches wide, and 9 inches deep, and it is to be observed that this was not its entire length.

No. 4 was the same length, by 17 inches wide, and 12 inches deep, and, like the former, is not complete. Both these great beams had a large piece cut out near the centre to receive a cross-beam 16 inches wide and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep, and one end of each of the beams was halved to receive another beam, probably a transverse one, and of about the same dimensions as the centre cross-beam.

No. 5 was originally a beam of about equal size to those above described, and shows signs of a "scarfed joint" and half mortice; its length in its imperfect state is 9 feet 6 inches long, by 1 foot 2 inches wide, and 9 inches deep, but in its present state it is not easy to say with accuracy what its original dimensions were.

No. 6 was also much broken; it was 10 feet long, 22 inches wide, by 11 inches deep, and well squared. Indeed, this remark respecting the squaring applies to all we saw.

No. 7 was 12 feet long, 15 inches wide, and 8 inches deep.

In No. 8 you will observe two mortice holes, one at either end, and two small holes near the left-hand end; they are all square. This log was not thick, and, as I said above, was used as a foot-bridge.

Plate I.



1



3



4



5



8



2

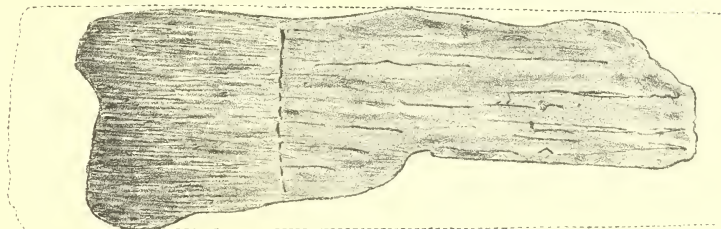
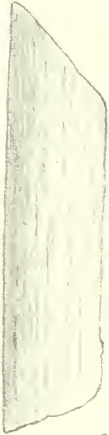
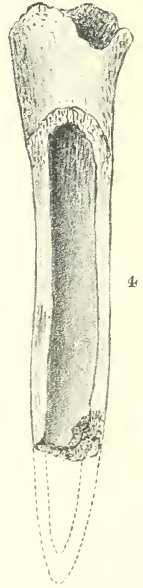
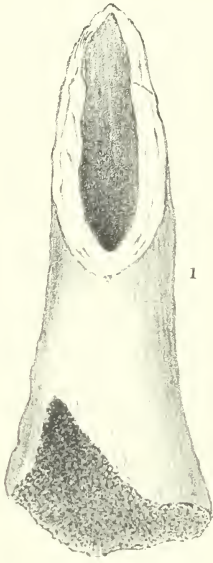








Plate II.



The oak stake, marked No. 2, we found in digging; it was only the lower end of a stake or pile; its end was sloped off to a chisel-point to facilitate being driven.

The other stake (No. 1) we found *in situ* about 3 to 4 feet under ground; it was well pointed, and apparently formed part of the stakes enclosing the dwellings.

All this timber was oak, and very black.

Having now endeavoured to describe the timber, I shall next ask your attention for a few minutes while I describe the other objects that came under our notice. The most of them are represented in the annexed plate, where they are numbered from I. to VIII.—five of them are bone, two represent teeth, and one a whetstone (?). So far as I have been able to ascertain, the bones appear to be those of the red-deer, and the teeth to belong to the ox family. No. I. may have been intended for the head of a spear; Nos. II. and III. appear to have been split in order to extract the marrow; No. IV. formed evidently a sort of scoop; while No. VIII. may have been an arrow-head, or else used to make holes in skins or other like material. The small hole at the blunt end may have been either to secure it to a stick, or else for a string to pass through, by which to suspend it. No. V. I call a "whetstone," and am supported in the view by the authority of Mr. Wakeman, to whom I showed it.

Besides the above, we saw the remains of a large "quern" of granite. Only half of one stone remains; it is about 28 inches in diameter, with a hole 5 inches in diameter through its centre. This stone was about 14 inches in thickness, and Malone told us it was found about 5 feet under ground "on some flooring," and that the flooring was *under* the main beams we have already described. He also said that a stone celt had been found, and "a keg of bog butter," all in the same field as the crannog.

We found small branches of hazel and blackthorn in digging, but no regular *layer* of brushwood; but our excavations were on such a limited scale that it is scarcely possible to judge of what may have been the original arrangement, as *some*, at least, of the ground we opened appeared to have been disturbed when the large beams were unearthed. There was, however, one conclusion I came to, and that was that the crannog of Lackaghmore has not been examined, and that there is every reason to believe it would well repay any Archæological Society to undertake it; that no difficulties to its examination present themselves; and being, as I believe it to be, the *only* crannog at present known to exist in the County Kildare, I beg to direct the attention of the Kildare Society to it, and to the desirability of their purchasing from young Malone the beams of oak figured above,

which are well worthy a place in any antiquarian museum. I have no doubt they could be obtained for "a song."

---

Since the above notes were written, I have received information of beams and stakes having been found in a bog not very far from Lackagh, and which I think are very likely to prove part of the structure of another crannog. I am only waiting till more fitting weather arrives to test this matter, and I hope at no distant date to have the pleasure of informing this Society that a second crannog can be claimed for the County Kildare.

" 'Tis not time lost to talk with antique lore  
And all the labours of the dead, for thence  
The musing mind may bring an ample store  
Of thought, that will her labours recompense."

## Miscellanea.

A Rare Edition of John Lodge's "Peerage of Ireland."—There is in the Library of Kilkea Castle a small folio-sized edition of a portion of Lodge's "Peerage," which was published in Dublin in 1745.

This number, or part, deals solely with the FitzGerald, Earls of Kildare and of Desmond, as well as their offshoots; it consists of 90 pages, with the letterpress in double columns on each page. Beyond four or five ornamental woodcuts, this work is not illustrated.

It is dedicated "To the Right Honourable James, Earl of Kildare and Baron of Offaley," by his "Lordship's most dutiful and most obedient Humble servant, The Author."

The title page thus describes the work:—

THE

PEERAGE

OF

I R E L A N D

CONTAINING

A Genealogical and Historical Account

OF

All the PEERS of IRELAND now existing ;

Their Descents direct and collateral ; remarkable ACTIONS  
and EMPLOYMENTS ;

Places of BURIAL, and Monumental INSCRIPTIONS :

With many other Curious and valuable PARTICULARS

TOGETHER

With their Paternal COATS of ARMS, Engraven on COPPER-  
PLATES

---

Collected from the best AUTHORITIES.

---

*Ne quid Falsi audeat Dicere,  
Ne quid Veri non audeat.* POLIBIUS.

---

DUBLIN

Printed by S. POWELL in Crane-Lane, for the AVTHOR.

M,DCC,XLV.

In the seven-volume quarto edition of Lodge's "Peerage," which was printed in Dublin in 1754, reference is made to this specimen number on page ix. of the Preface, which runs as follows:—

"That I may not be thought to copy the account of Lord Kildare's family from 'The Peerage of England,' published by Mr. Collins, in the first volume of his Appendix, it is, I think, incumbent upon me to mention that, having been favoured with the pedigree by the late Earl of Kildare, I printed that history in the year 1745 (except a few remarks of his in the beginning, not pertinent to the family, and his omission of the Earl of Desmond's branch) as a specimen of the Peerage of Ireland."

That this specimen number must be very scarce is testified to by a remark which the famous dealer in rare books, Bernard Quaritch of Picadilly, made in answer to an inquiry from me: "I am afraid," said he, "that you will have an almost impossible task to obtain the Part."

WALTER FITZGERALD.

## Queries.

I WILL be much obliged to anyone who will add to the following lists of "Pagan Sepulchral Monuments" (1) "Moats," and (2) "Long-stones"), now existing, or the sites of those known to have existed, on the county Kildare:—

### (1). TUMULI *or* MOATS.

- One at Clane, near the River Liffey.
- „ Cloncurry.
- „ The Curragh, at its south-eastern end, called "Moteenanow."
- „ Kilkea, near the Castle, and close to the River Greese.
- „ Mainham.
- „ Morrinstown biller, near the railway line.
- „ Rathmore.
- „ Rheban, near the River Barrow.

NOTE.—It is a remarkable circumstance that almost invariably a Christian burial-ground is to be found within a few perch of a tumulus. It is at times difficult to distinguish a rath from a moat; but a moat never has a rampart at the top, though one often circumvents the base, whereas the rath has one, two, or more ramparts. In some instances, a moat is misnamed a rath, and *vice versa*; for example, the Moat of Ardsnull, near Athy, is a rath; and Rathmore (to the east of Naas) is not "a great rath," as the name implies, but a huge flat-topped sepulchral moat.

### (2). LONG STONES *or* DALLAUNS.

- That at Craddockstown, 14½ ft. in height and 10 ft. 8 in. in girth.
- „ Furness, 17 ft. in height and 9 ft. 6 in. in girth.
- „ Mullaghmast, 7 ft. in height and 7 ft. in girth.
- „ Punchestown, 19½ ft. in height and 11 ft. in girth.

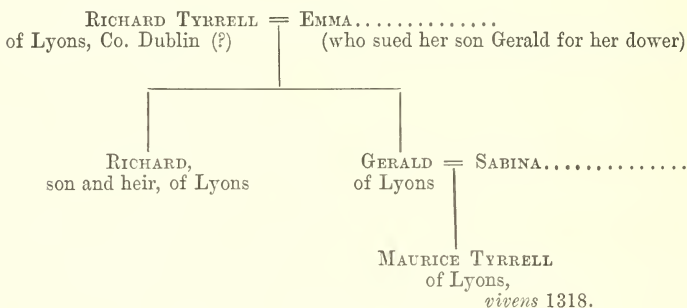
NOTE.—These long stones are all more or less upright; they are also each of a single block of granite, and everyone of them some miles distant from a granite district.

The measurements given above show their height above the ground, and their girth some 3 feet above it.

The Long Stone of Furness stands in the centre of a large rath on the high ground behind the house.—WALTER FITZGERALD.

### The Aylmers of (1) Lyons and (2) Donadea.

(1). When lately looking through one of the four ms. volumes containing genealogical extracts taken by Sir William Betham, “e Rotulis Placitis Communis Banci Hiberniæ,” and now in Ulster’s Office, my eye caught the following item :—



Can it be that the Aylmers became possessed of Lyons through marriage with an heiress of the Tyrrells, the former proprietors?

If this were so, the appearance of the Tyrrell Coat of Arms on the Aylmer stone, which is built into the Lyons churchyard wall (*vide* p. 299 of the JOURNAL), would be more or less accounted for.

(2). In Burke’s “Peerage,” under the heading of the Aylmers of Donadea, the 3rd Baronet is given as Sir Gerald Aylmer.

Now, it is stated in “the Funeral Entries” in Ulster’s Office, that this Gerald died in the lifetime of his father, Sir Andrew Aylmer, the 2nd Baronet. These “Funeral Entries,” I am told, are so reliable that they can be taken as evidence in a Law Court. The entry in question is as follows :—

“Captain Garrit Aylmer, son and heir of Sir Andrew Aylmer of Donadee, in the county of Kildare, Esq.; he married Jane daughter and heir of Phillip FitzGarret, of Allen in the same county, and hath issue by her a son named FitzGerald Aylmer, and a daughter named Elizabeth; the aforesaid Captain Garrit Aylmer departed this mortal life the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December last past, and was interred at Christchurch with funeral solemnities on Saint Stephen’s day following.

“The truth of the premisses is testified by the Right Worshipful sir Andrew Aylmer, Baronet, father of the defunct, who has hereunto subscribed his hand.

“ANDREW AYLME.”

The above entry is to be found on page 87 of the 10th volume. In another place we are told that this Captain Garret Aylmer died “the 20<sup>th</sup> and buried the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1663 in Christchurch.”



### Who was the Dean of Kildare in 1535 ?

A Dean of Kildare is said (JOURNAL, p. 229) to have been made prisoner by Sir William Skeffington, the Lord Deputy, when he captured Maynooth Castle, then held for Silken Thomas.

This Dean is stated by Sir James Ware to have suffered death along with twenty-five other prisoners, who were then and there beheaded in front of the Castle gate.

In the year 1523, Gerald, the 9th Earl of Kildare, wrote to Cardinal Wolsey to use his influence to appoint the Earl's friend, Edward Dillon, Dean of Kildare, to the Bishopric of Kildare, then vacant; he describes the Dean as—"Maister Edward Dillon, Deane of the Cathederall Chirch of Kildare, aforesaid, who is of vertuoas living, and of English name and condicion."\*

The Dean was not raised to the Bishopric, but a namesake, Thomas Dillon, was appointed.

Can this Edward Dillon have been the Dean in question ?

WALTER FITZGERALD.

---

## Replies to Queries.

ON page 208 of the JOURNAL, I asked for information as to "M'Cabe's Tree," which is marked on Noble and Keenan's Map of the county Kildare. When recently in that neighbourhood, I gathered the following scrap of explanation from a man named Matt. Flannagan, who is employed as herd to Mr. MacDonnell, of Dunferth House:—M'Cabe, he said, he had heard from the old people, was a notorious highwayman in the last century, who hid in a hollow tree near the roadside, from which he issued to rob the passers-by; he also lived in a cave under a small rath, called 'the Raheen,' the remains of which still exist on the side of the road opposite where the tree stood, about half a mile to the west of the Dunferth churchyard; of the tree itself there is not now a trace left.

WALTER FITZGERALD.

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\* See the "State Papers of Henry VIII., Ireland," vol. ii., p. 99.

## Corrigenda.

Page 17, line 21, for "Cill-uaille and Claonadh," read "Cill-Ausaille and Claonnadh."

Page 23, line 1, for "Boullage le Gonz," read "Boullaye le Gouz."

Page 70, line 9, for "Kilmohude (Kilmeade)," read "Kilmokidie (Ballyadams, Queen's Co.)."

On page 121 of the JOURNAL a description is given of the sculpturing on the sides of THE EUSTACE ALTAR-TOMB AT NEW ABBEY, near Kilcullen Bridge. This account is very incorrect, and was evidently taken from the *Anthologia Hibernica Magazine*, which cannot be depended on as far as its antiquarian articles are concerned.

The sides of the Eustace Tomb are now built into the wall surrounding the churchyard, where they are safe, though much hidden. The panel, containing the female described as "an Irish peasant," is in reality intended for a nun of the Franciscan Order; while "the two heralds in the dress of their office" are, in fact, St. Catherine and St. Bridget (?). The former saint holds a sword in her right hand, and a small spiked wheel in her left—the emblems of her martyrdom. The other female figure, like St. Catherine, is crowned, and standing; she holds a book in the right hand, and in the left a cross-topped staff, the butt of which pierces the mouth of a dragon lying at her feet. Can this be St. Bridget?

The subjects in the other panels are—the Queen of Heaven and Child; the emblems of the Passion and Crucifixion on a shield, supported by angels; a Franciscan Monk; and a shield, bearing a coat-of-arms, quartered:—1 and 4. Or, a saltire gules; with an annulet (*i.e.* a plain ring, denoting a 5th son for difference); for Eustace. 2 and 3. Barry of six — and —; (this heiress has not been identified).

Page 125, line 40, for "Pierce FitzGerald," read "Walter Reagh FitzGerald."

Page 184, line 11, for "Aither Life, or Maistean," omit "or Maistean."

Page 186, line 20, for "Rory O'Rourke," read "Tiernan O'Rourke."

Page 188, lines 16 and 39, for "Thomas FitzMaurice," read "Thomas FitzJohn."

On pages 288-9 of our JOURNAL frequent mention is made of a place called MUGHNA, which is there identified with the present Moone. This is a mistake,\* as Moone was never known as "Mughna,"

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\* *Vide* O'Donovan's notes on Mughna, in vol. ii. p. 684 of the "Annals of the Four Masters."

but always as “Maean Choluimchille”\* (or Moone Columbkil) in ancient records. The “Mughna” in question was also called Mughna-Moshenog, a name now distorted to Dunmanoge. This district was divided into Mughna-Moshenog and Bealach-Mughna; the former was so called after St. Shenan, whose festival was on the 11th December, and through the customary prefix of “Mo” and affix of “oge” this name was changed into Moshenog, *i. e.* “My Shenan dear”; the latter name means Mughain’s † Pass or Road, and is now known as Ballachmoon. These two designations are now the names of two townlands on either side of the river Lerr, close to the mearing of the counties Kildare and Carlow, but in the former county.

Again, on page 288, the full Irish name of the river Liffey—“ABHAIN LIFÉ” (avon Lifé) is stated to mean “the river of the Plain.” This is not so, as the name simply means “the river Liffey.” In an ancient Irish ms. called the Dinnsenchus, Lifé is stated to be the daughter of Cannan the Pict, and the wife of Deltbanna mac Drucht “the spencer of Conary more, king of Tara.” It goes on to state that as this couple were proceeding from the present county Tipperary towards Tara, they crossed the plain in the present county Kildare through which the now river Liffey flows. Lifé was so delighted with the beauty of this plain that she asked if it might be named after her, at which request “Deltbanna dealt out no more liquor for the men of Erin until the plain was called by his wife’s name, hence Magh Lifé (Lifé’s plain).” ‡ The river’s name probably has the same origin. For the subdivisions of Magh Lifé, see p. 165 of our JOURNAL.

\* Meaning, according to O’Donovan, “St. Columbkil’s property” (*vide* the field-name books in Mountjoy Barracks).

† The name of a female.

‡ *Vide* Dr. Whitley Stokes’s Article on “The Prose Tales in the Rennes copy of the Dinshenchus,” which appeared in the *Revue Celtique* for July, 1894.



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